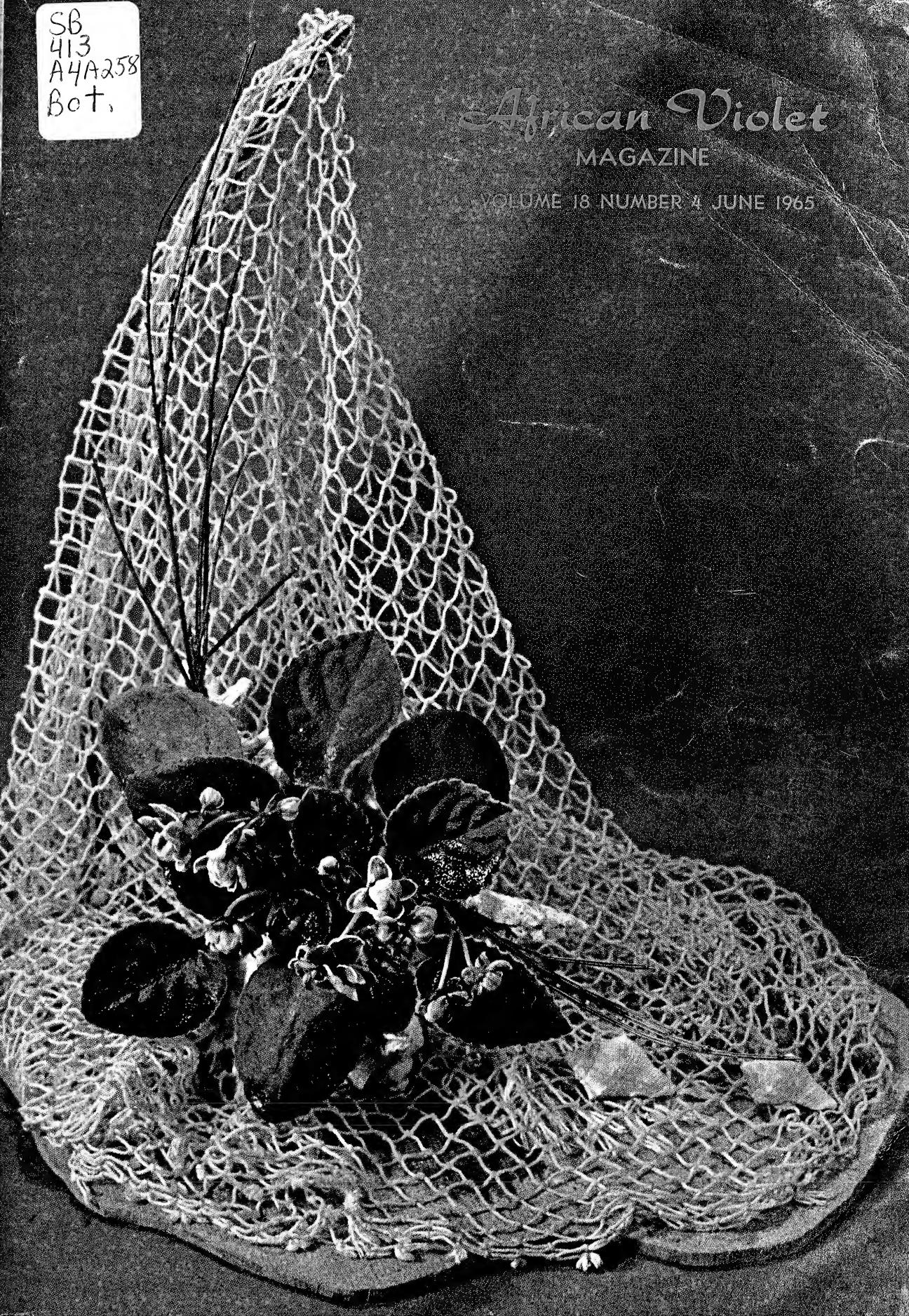


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*African Violet*  
MAGAZINE

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 4 JUNE 1965

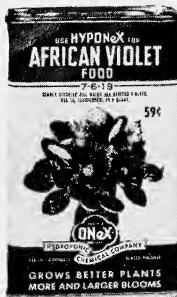


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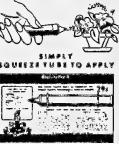
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## COVER PAGE

"By the Sea" by Mrs. Charles Dedera of St. Louis, Mo., was top winner in the Best Arrangement class in the National Show at the convention in Baltimore, Maryland.



# African Violet

MAGAZINE

VOL. 18 NUMBER 4

JUNE, 1965

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EDITOR'S NOTE: These are your advertisers who help the magazine. Please support them and when you write them for supplies, please mention The African Violet Magazine.

# Hats Off To Eight New Life Members

Eight new life members!

And all in one year, too!

Who said active interest in the National African Violet Society was waning? Who said that there aren't as many avid African violet fans today as yesterday? Who said that members' loyalty to the African Violet Society was a thing of the past?

Well, these eight new members—all in one year—can be used to refute these statements.

If the African Violet Society had been gaining life members like this over the 18 years it has been in existence, there would be a total of 144 enrolled. Instead, we have only 48 listed . . . and eight of these in the past year.

Seems like things are picking up as far as the African Violet Society of America is concerned.

Most recent life member to be enrolled was Mrs. Aramintha Barnett, 4720 Saviers Road, Oxnard, California. She became a life member Feb. 17, 1965.

Mrs. Grace Grissom of 2112 W. Main Street, Houston, Texas, Mrs. Ross (Mary) McLaren of 2009 22nd St., N. W., of Canton Ohio, and Theodore S. Tenney of Kwaske-Hoo, Culver Lake, East Shore, Branchville, N. J., became life members following the Dallas convention; and signed up at the convention were Mrs. Estelle Crane of Sharon, Pa., Mrs. Robert Hamilton of Oradell, N. J., and Mrs. Helen Van Zele and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Joan Van Zele, of Lemon Grove, Calif.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with much sadness that we learned of the passing of Mrs. Carl Brehmer of Gary, Ind., on Feb. 24. In writing of her death Mrs. E. L. Rutan said "Although neither of us ever showed any of our plants, we loved them and spent so many happy hours together talking about our violets, exchanging plants and leaves, and discussing articles in the African Violet magazine. I will never look at my violets that I won't think of Anne."

## 15 Years Ago

Appearing in the June 1950 African Violet Magazine was an article, "New Favorites", by Quixie Nichols of Nashville, Tenn., in which she told of two newcomers to the Neptune family: Double Neptune and Lavender Neptune. New girls listed were My Lady Sharon and Sailor Girl. Brown's Pet was a miniature novelty; Fantasy was a lovely new plant; and other new ones were Red Beauty, Kay's Quilted, White Girl, the new Fringettes in six lovely shades; and Marmarata, that stole the show in Atlanta.

☆ ☆ ☆

"Is the Violet Going to College?" was the title of an article by Priscilla Landaker of Cincinnati, Ohio, who wrote of a benefit luncheon held to raise money for a scholarship fund, a project of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

☆ ☆ ☆

Boyce M. Edens, chairman of the registration committee in answer to an article, "What's In a Name?" voiced disapproval of sticking to color in naming new varieties of African violets so that prospective purchasers will have a clue to the color of their purchases. He had this to say:

"I believe practically everyone is somewhat weary of the use of the words in names of African violets such as double improved, supreme, spooned, blush, amazon, blue, pink, lavender, white, etc. Let us begin to apply appropriate names under which the exquisite new African violets of tomorrow will be known and registered permanently with the Society." He concluded his article, with the question: "Would not some name of a single word, perhaps, such as Aristocrat, Glorious, Pinnacle, or Innovation more nearly reflect the

many fine characteristics of many of the new varieties—the new hybrids? Do not let us thrust a color designation into the names of these new creations in the realm of African violetdom."

☆ ☆ ☆

In a double page spread, pictures of Ulery's spring introductions showed Double Neptune, Lavender Bi-Color, Sailor Girl No. 1, Purple Girl and Bronze Red Girl. The article stated that Dale Ulery and Paul Slough had been doing some fine hybridizing and the results were most pleasing.

☆ ☆ ☆

Ada Muir of Canada was the author of an article, "Planting by the Moon," in which she declared, "You might get seeds to germinate and leaves to root on other dates than those given, but for best results, choose those dates which are in harmony with the work in hand, for there is a correct time for everything".

☆ ☆ ☆

In an article, "Baby Greenhouses," Florence T. Faltz of Pennsylvania told of making a miniature greenhouse of a glass coaster topped with a small glass custard cup and another of a plastic pot topped with a glass baby food jar. She concluded her article: "In all my African violet experience, the only statement that growers seem to agree on is the temperature of the water used in watering plants. All other such procedures, such as pots, soil, exposure, etc., will cause much discussion and be questioned one way or another. So right here, I'll say: 'If you have a good method of raising violets, stick to it!'"

☆ ☆ ☆

**Is your membership about to expire in the African Violet Society of America? Send your renewal to African Violet Society, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.**

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## President's Message

This month's message is a report on the past year and a glimpse into the future. It is a report of progress, a progress made possible by the continuing support of each of our members. Without this wonderful loyalty and help such a report would never be possible. With it, our possibilities are only bounded by our energy and imagination. My deepest thanks to each of you for your efforts. Of course these efforts vary from those of some committee chairmen who have toiled away at files, correspondence and ideas every waking hour (and we have some who seldom sleep) to the individual member helping to get a new member or make their local club show a real success. Added together they spell out progress.

You will find resumes of committee reports in the minutes of the Board of Director's meetings. Only the highlights follow:—A net increase of more than 800 new members from April 1964 to Dec. 1964 and even greater growth in the early months of this year. Affiliated organizations total 390, the greatest number in the society's history. The anticipated deficit for 1964 has been reduced more than 75% and is the smallest in the past three years. This was not achieved by cutting services nor increasing dues but by increasing our membership. If just one member in 24 had found one more new member even that deficit would have been erased. A very successful convention has just been concluded at Baltimore. Many improvements have been made in the African Violet Magazine but much greater ones are in store for you in the year ahead. An excellent promotion program is now in operation.

A new, beautiful hotel, the Americana, will be the site of next year's convention. Convention committees are well organized and already hard at work to make your trip to Miami well worth the effort.

Our bond has been extended to cover our volunteer workers who handle society funds as well as our paid employees at no added cost.

Dual membership for husbands and wives has been provided for in the By-Laws. We have affiliated with the American Horticultural Society in order to be good citizens in the overall world of plants. They can help us and we in turn help strengthen them.

Provision has been made to continually compile accurate listings for our Master List supplements and they will be published as removable sections of the magazine as before. Registration papers have been a bit simplified and more hybridizers are realizing the value of registering their best new hybrids.

A modern addressograph system is shortly to be installed at the Knoxville office. This will replace obsolete equipment, improve service and cut costs. It will also make more time available for the many tasks we have loaded upon our home office personnel. A surprise awaits you when you receive your Sept. or Dec. magazine, made possible by this machine. But it won't be a surprise if I tell you now.

Library use has expanded greatly with our move to the Knoxville office and the greater number of affiliate clubs and to date only two complaints on service. Remarkable when you see how these slides race back and forth across the country. The Library Committee is now reviewing, editing, adding to and in some cases discarding worn out or obsolete programs. This takes time and if in the meantime you receive one which you feel was viewed by Rip Van Winkle, bear with us. It is volunteer work and requires countless hours.

A directory of Commercial Growers is being compiled from information furnished by the commercial members to help you find the ones whose operation fills your needs. It will be in an early issue of the magazine. Most of these improvements are the direct result of suggestions and constructive criticism sent in by our members. Please keep them coming. They are the blueprints of progress.

Now a few ways you can help in your business with your society: Always check the magazine section "Strictly Business—Your Business" to be sure you send to the correct person for the service which you desire. Be sure to give your complete name and address and any other needed information. This may sound corny but if you have tried to play James Bond in locating the address of Mary Smith or the person who lives at 28 Meadow Road, no name, no town you would understand.

Please be especially careful when you receive your notice for renewal to check the correct amount due for the particular month in which you are due to renew. Remember this is the year of change to single date dues and the amount due changes each month. Having it correct the first time will save work for Knoxville and you. A high percentage of members are taking advantage of the second option and paying their dues to March 1967 thus saving further time for their society and themselves.

The Board voted to continue to assist in soliciting pictures for the African Violet Calendar for the next two years. If you have a particularly nice plant or arrangement and would like to see it given national distribution all you need do is have a good commercial quality 8" x 10" black and white glossy print made and submit it to Hearthside Press, 381 Park Ave. So., New York, N. Y. 10016. A complete description should be attached to it on a separate piece of paper. Those whose pictures are used will receive a copy of the calendar. All pictures will be returned. Affiliated Chapters will again have the opportunity to purchase these calendars at wholesale to make money for their treasury.

Dual membership fee for husband and wife, giving full membership privileges to each but only one magazine has been set at \$2.00 over individual membership or \$6.50 for regular dual or \$15.33 for commercial dual.

One other change voted at Baltimore was to discontinue listing the individual members in the July issue. There were several reasons for this. It has no value to a very large percentage of our members. It is one of the most

expensive items in our printing costs. A number of complaints were received in the past year about use of the list for unauthorized and obnoxious mailings to our members. The savings will be used for improvement of the magazine in other areas which will be of greater benefit to more members than the list.

Lest it appear from this message that A.V.S.A. is just a business, let us remember that one of its greatest rewards is the friendship we make through our flowers. As you travel across our great continent on your summer vacation include a few stops to make new violet friends and renew old violet acquaintances.

A Happy Summer to All,

*Frank A. Burton*

P. S. Remember for 1965 'Every Member get a New Member.'

**Have you renewed your membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc.?**

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and many others such as Junior Miss, Appaloosa, Devils Gold, Blackfoot, Lady Wilson, Funny Face, John F. Kennedy, Flamenco, Moulin Rouge, Apricot Honey, Imperial Blush, and Fischer and Lyons. Prices start at 50c per clump.

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Persian Glamor	Brimstone	Sparkling Red
Miracle Rosette		Splashy
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# LIBRARY CORNER

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Serving the past three years, as a member of the committee under Librarian Maisie Yakie has taught me how long it takes to compile a new slide program from dream stage to reality. Some are achieved in the short span of one convention show. Others require a long period after the first glimmer of an idea is born. We hope you'll like the most recent addition. This is one of the dreams which took more than two years to become a reality.

"Honor Roll and Best Varieties, Series I" is now at Knoxville, ready for reservations. This program consists of 42 slides, short enough

to include with a club program and still give the members time for "Ohs" and "Ahs" with discussion of the lovely varieties. Slides included in this first series were donated to the library by Mr. and Mrs. Sam O. Nichols, Mrs. Wm. J. Krogman, Mrs. Frank Tinari, Mrs. Joan Van Zele and Mrs. W. F. Anderson. Sincere thanks to these members for this wonderful contribution to the library!

Enough slides were donated to compile two sets—not exact duplicates, but slides covering the same varieties. We hope this will meet your requests. As soon as possible, Series II, covering entirely different varieties, will be added. Some slides have been accumulated toward this goal. Help make it a reality soon by sending one slide—or many—of a specimen show plant on the Honor Roll and Best Varieties lists.

For those who are planning club programs now for next season, the list of library material available was given in the December and March Magazines. All Affiliated Chapters have received a copy. If you don't have this list, request a copy from the Knoxville office.

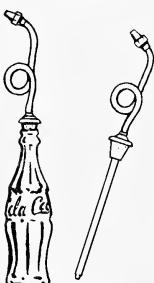
Make your reservations early for Baltimore convention slide programs. Those of you who have summer meetings may be able to have them early since there is less demand during July and August. All slide programs are available to every individual AVSA member as well as Affiliated Chapters. Remember to enclose postal fee with your request for material. Make checks payable to African Violet Society of America and send to AVSA Library, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn. 37901. Reservations will be confirmed by the Knoxville office. When a slide program is requested, be sure to give three choices of programs and at least two dates when you can use the material.

In assuming the duties as your librarian, I join all of you in thanking Maisie Yakie for her contribution to the Society as Librarian for the past nine years and, following her leadership, hope to continue to build the library for your use. Your suggestions, comments (pro and con), your contributions of slides, Year Books, show schedules and interesting material to add to the Program Packets are needed. This is your library. Help make it a good one.

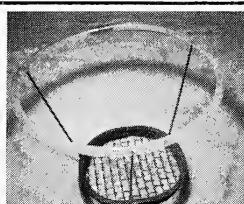
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# A Word From Your Plant Editor

By Ethel Wittner

Have you ever felt so enthusiastic about a new variety that you wanted to "Jump Up" and tell the whole African violet world about it? Well, Mrs. Walter Grud, of Park Ridge, Illinois did! This is what she had to say:

"Lyon's Jump-Up—this name hurts because the extra-lovely dancing star brings to mind such words as lovely, exquisite, and simply stunning! So why Jump-Up? Really, Mr. Lyon. Well, anyway, this one is a standout on my bench, positively beaming in its radiant, double reddish-purple beauty, edged in gleaming white, as well as Lyon's Peak of Pink, another shell-pink, semi-double star, edged in ivory lace, just bustin' out with bloom all over. Both varieties are good show-plant material. Manelta's Royal Crest has taken my fancy with the bronzy strawberry leaf, so unlike any other. The double purple geneva waxy blooms stand high and smart. I also have a Royal Crest with rich apple-green strawberry foliage which is the same as above, except for leaf color. Were there really two? These also shape up nicely into Show Plants."

Mrs. John Nelson of Chicago, Illinois, thinks you should know about two singles that do not drop their blossoms—Naomi's "Blue Stictite", a nice light blue with tailored leaves, and Surh's "Maumee Vesper", a dark blue with dark holly leaves. She also recommends Lyon's "Purple Choice", a prolific deep purple, on a plant that shapes up well; also Lyon's "Master Blue", which is a favorite of many growers. It is a huge bright double-blue with a good white edge, even through the summer heat.

Champion's lovely "Waterlily" is gaining in popularity. The variegated foliage and bright double-pink blossoms make a beautiful picture.

And the joy we had in Baltimore, feasting our eyes on the very, very newest surprises the hybridizers have been pollinating and cross-pollinating. They must force the plants to the peak of bloom, subject them to all kinds of shipping hazards, and then present them to us in their spectacular commercial exhibits that so

enhance the beauty of our National Shows.

Our deepest appreciation must go to these growers who use every means to charm us into becoming and remaining such enthusiastic hobbyists.

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New Era (Violet Food) Liquid	4 oz./59c
New Era (Violet Food) Powder	3 oz./45c
Sei Kaps (Stim-U-Plant)	Sodium Selenate 24/\$1.25
Peat Moss (Sphagnum)	10 oz./59c
Peat Humus	3 lb. bag/\$1.00
Chelated Iron (Iron Deficiency)	4 oz./\$1.29
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# Question Box

*Anne Tinari  
Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pa.*



Dear Readers:

It is my pleasant task to report that due to greatly increased individual letters and mail received for the Question Box, we shall omit names and addresses of individuals thus allowing more space to answer more of your most welcome questions. Keep them coming, we shall do our best to supply answers.

*Anne*

Q. I am wondering if soil that has been once used could be used again since plants have died in it and what should be added to it.

A. I would certainly not recommend ever reusing soil that plants have died in. It is so much wiser and probably less expensive to begin with fresh sterilized soil, as it is most difficult to determine whether live fungus or any other harmful organism is present.

Q. What is the best material in which to root leaves, that will also produce the most plantlets? How long should they be left before rooting?

A. We find a medium of half sand and half fine vermiculite a most suitable mixture for rooting here in the greenhouses. Be certain sand is sterilized, coarse builders sand can be used. One must avoid using seashore sand as the salt content is most unsuitable. The petiole should be cut short 1 to 1½ inches for best propagating results. Insert petioles ¼" to ½" deep and firm well. Using a rooting hormone such as proliferol powder to promote quick growth is advisable.

Q. Why do some violet leaves grow and grow and never produce little plants? Some as large as my hand in sand and vermiculite after eight months show no plantlets.

A. This can be the result of using an old leaf where sufficient chlorophyll is lacking. Selecting a young leaf such as the middle row on an established plant gives best results. You may have planted leaves too deep that growth is progressing under rooting medium and the above ground process in promoting very slow growth. It may be wise to cut petiole and to re-root.

Q. Dear Anne: I look forward with great anticipation in reading the magazine and especially your Question Box, but please answer this

rather personal question: Why do commercial growers get so many plants from a single leaf? What is their secret or whatever they use?

A. Truly there are no secrets. In our greenhouses, leaf propagation goes on constantly the year round. Our favorite mixture for violet cuttings is about half sand and half fine vermiculite. All cuttings are about 1½ to 2 inch petiole, the end of which is dipped lightly in proliferol powder. This is a well-balanced scientific growth stimulant which encourages rapid root development. The leaf is inserted in the rooting medium about ½ inch and lightly affirmed. We find it promotes a more even type growth. The quantity of plantlets per leaf is not as important as quality. We prefer a good strong cutting that produces a few good plants to one that is weak producing many spindly ones that lack proper root growth.

Q. My problem is the outer leaves tend to turn a yellow green to all yellow. This occurs more frequently when the plants are most heavily in bloom. What can I do to prevent it? Would it be helpful to alternate fertilizers?

A. It is quite normal for lower, outer leaves to get a withered or yellow look and should be removed. Many times the chlorophyll contained in the leaf is consumed and yellowing occurs. Leaves can also turn in this manner when placed in excessive light. This results in profusion of bloom but in turn may be hard on the tender foliage especially when placed in a south exposure.

Many people prefer to use fertilizer of different types and sometimes it is beneficial to alternate. Do not overfeed, once every two or three weeks is sufficient.

Q. I am curious about a condition that I have noticed in some of my small plants. Occasionally a young plant will start to send out an

overabundance of suckers at the base, not just under the first row of leaves, and this seems to inhibit the growth and general development of the main plant. I do not remember seeing this particular phenomenon discussed in the magazine and I am wondering if it is a result of some disease or just an unfortunate tendency which has developed from wrong plant management. Is this the symptom of disease instead of malfunction?

A. Lack of sufficient light may lead to bunchedy thick type of growth you describe. This same type of growth can occur and is common for a plant that is affected with cyclamen mite. A plant in an effort to save its existence will sometimes commence rapid new growth. However, when this occurs, it is usually hard and brittle and takes on a deformity. It is almost impossible to tell without seeing the plant. It may be wise to have someone examine it who is acquainted with plant diseases.

Q. The leaves of my plants look water soaked on the back, others look very transparent, especially on the old leaves. I have a feeling overwatering may be my trouble though I have persisted in using every precaution to make growing conditions ideal. I try to obey all the rules, yet the violets are still crying for help.

A. Constant overwatering can cause lack of air circulation in the root system, thus hindering plant tissue to function properly. If plants are water-logged it can cause petioles and leaves to become transparent, especially the lower outer leaves. Lack of proper nutrient in the soil could also be symptoms of this condition. As suggested in so many questions answered, it is always most wise to know what soil Ph you are working with. Then too, be sure plants are never too dry when fertilizer is being used, as this can cause damage to the fibrous root system.

Q. My trouble is mainly with young plants coming into bloom the first time. The start of a bud can be seen under leaf stem, then they just stay like that without progress. Plant looks good but grows extremely slow. I have noticed that on some of the plants when the buds are getting good size they turn on their sides, just a half curl like a pig's tail.

A. From your plant description it is very possible your plants are not receiving sufficient light and you may also be using too much water for the type potting material you are using.

Plants should never get bone dry. On the other hand if they are kept too moist in a

soil that retains much of the water, they will definitely limit good growth and blossom. You may try using a soil that tests a more neutral 6.4 to 7 which is neutral, for better growth and firm blossoms.

Q. I seem to lose leaf after leaf with crown rot. In my African violet handbook for judges and exhibitors a statement is made that some growers recommend using calcium carbonate but no mention is made of quantity that should be used.

A. You may be interested in referring to the Question Box column of March magazine, page 57, where a similar question was answered. However,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon to a mature plant once every 4 months seems to be the average rec-

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**Q.** My difficulty is that many of my cultivars do not come true. For instance, Jane Starr comes through a solid deep purple, no variegation. Arctic Snow too has reverted from its lovely blue and white to a solid color and there are others. White Pride is taking on a definite pinkish lavender cast. Is this normal or is unusually high humidity the underlying cause?

**A.** This unstable variation in African violets can be genetic and environmental influence and is many times a combination of both. All the cultivars you mention have been known to be recessive. You may find extreme temperature changes to be a direct cause. Much of the variation, especially among the Geneva types, seem to be the loss of their white edges during the hot, humid summer months, but as soon as even temperatures are again available the beautiful white edged borders appear.

**Q.** I have a number of plants developing yellowish and off color leaves on the lower outer row. I have ruled out a light problem as they are located in three different places in my home and all show yellowing. I use every precaution to keep plants clean and free of pests. I alternate using three types of fertilizers and am now wondering if this yellowing is due to soil deficiency.

I have often wondered if there is a local society in my area. How does one find out about an organization of this type?

**A.** It is very possible you have a soil deficiency. There is little that can substitute for proper well-balanced soil. May I repeat—the best way to approach a solution to your problem is to find out what the Ph of your soil is, it should be slightly acid or almost neutral between 6.4 and 7 seems to produce the best

growth.

In any case various plant foods do not make up for a real deficiency or an unbalanced soil. Food is used only to replenish the nutrients that are constantly flushed out of the soil when plants are watered.

If you wish more information about joining an AV club or affiliated chapter closest to your area I suggest you contact Lizeta Hamilton, 675 Soldier Hill Road, Oradell, N. J. 07649. She is affiliated chapters chairman and can help you for more specific information. She is up to the minute on this and I am sure would be glad to help you.

**Q.** Could you tell me of any company that sells a heating device that can be used under trays?

**A.** You might inquire of the Westinghouse Electric Company who are carrying more and more plant devices and also the following address should help you in your search for this material. The firm is a greenhouse specialist and if they do not carry what you desire will probably recommend someone who does. They are Lord & Burnham Division, Burnham Corporation, Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y.

**Q.** I am a high school student and I am anxious to find out if I need some sort of degree to be a hybridizer. Would I need to go to college or are there such courses in this field? If you know of anything important I need to know, I would be pleased to hear from you.

**A.** It is always most difficult to advise one, who is fortunate enough to have a fair idea, of the career he would like to pursue in life. To answer your question directly, this career can be followed without a degree depending on the ability and incentive a person has. Also the long hours of devotion and trial and error that are so demanding in one's lifetime with it.

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My advice to any young person would be to advance his education to the highest degree possible, especially if he has the capability to do so. Today no amount of education is too much in any field and in plant life we need people with all the possible knowledge that is available. I would say, never lose sight of your goal but continue your education toward a degree to the very best of your ability and finances. I don't think you will ever have cause to regret it.

Q. Please tell me if there is such a thing as a yellow African violet. I am acquainted with a yellow episcia, but where can I get a yellow violet?

A. As of this date I know of no true yellow African violet. We too would love to know where to purchase one but I am afraid only time and future hybridizing will possibly bring this about. In plant life there is always hope.

Q. Dear Anne: Being a subscriber to the AV magazine, I enjoy it so much but being new at it I need some explanation. For instance, what is meant by a girl leaf? Why can I not replace my Neptune and other older varieties I am fond of? Also I am looking for the variety White Alice.

A. Girl leaves are leaves that have a serrated edge with a creamy white spot at the base. They are not, what you think the name implies, that they are of feminine gender. This type of foliage goes back to the first sport plant possessing this leaf in violets which was called Blue Girl. Since that time many of the growers have named plants with this type of leaf girl names and it has become known as a girl type.

Many of the older type varieties such as Neptune are hard to obtain, so many new cultivars are originated every year with su-

perior performance that it is impossible to continue growing the older types. If you are interested in the history of many of them I would suggest you read the Heritage series in the last three issues of the AVSA Magazine.

Anyone knowing where variety White Alice may be obtained please contact direct Mrs. F. Klimas, 8354 Phillips Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Q. I'm having trouble finding places to grow my violets. The stems on many plants grow straight up. Can this be caused from being on a table below the window ledge?

Where can I find the cultivar Apricot Mist?

A. Yes this is the specific answer to your problem. Light is the prime factor in determining growth pattern. Your plants are growing straight up toward the light.

Apricot Mist was a semi-miniature type popular some 9 or 10 years ago. We no longer list it, but if some reader knows where it may be obtained please contact direct Mrs. G. Keeley, Greenwood, Miss.

Q. Dear Anne: Just been on vacation and

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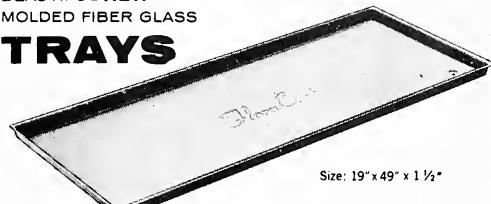
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came home with over 30 violets! Now what am I going to do? I live in an apartment with only 2 Flora Carts but new varieties are always so new and tempting.

A. May I offer my heart-felt sympathy! Don't feel too badly. This is a very common problem among violet lovers. Whether you possess a window sill, a Flora Cart, a greenhouse, or even 6 greenhouses, there simply is never enough room.

Q. Dear Anne: In a recent article in your column, I read with interest Mrs. Madeline Hill's series on growing a show plant. However, I would like to ask, in regard to the Green Thumb potting soil, proportions to use. It seemed very light to me and I didn't know correct items or amounts to add to it.

A. Mrs. Hill was kind enough to send a direct answer to this question as follows:

There are so many organic mixes being sold and all composed of different ingredients, there are no two alike. I recommend using perlite in the organic mix in order to have faster drainage for the large plants. Using one-third perlite may be all right for some mixes and for others it may make the soil too light. I would suggest experimenting with the mix you already purchased and find the correct

amount for your growing condition.

*Madeline Hill*

The following are experiences that some of the members have to share with our readers in regard to violet problems.

Dear Anne: In the Dec. magazine, Vol. 18, No. 2, page 47 a Mrs. A. Lesur was talking of the problem of a rusty-orange deposit on the surface of the soil. I had the same thing and it would get on the stems and new leaves of the plant. At first I blamed the water, as we have well water, but when I discussed it with our 15 club members we decided it wasn't the water. It resembles a rust that gets on roses (similar to a fungus). I decided to sprinkle sulphur lightly on the affected parts, when it isn't too bad, the plant usually out-grows it. However, it does show up more on soil that has sponge rok on it.

Dear Anne: Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us all through the Question Box. I am 85 and greatly enjoy this wonderful hobby. I enjoy raising 50 to 75 varieties for my church each year. Recently, I had an experience that I thought would interest you.

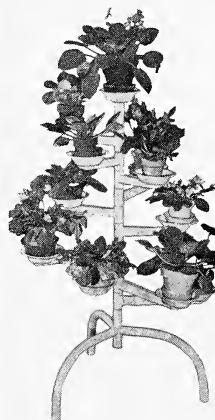
In a large planter full of violets and maidenhair fern, I recently sprayed to rid my fern of what I later discovered to be thrips. Without a second thought I used the Antrol Bomb and then in hesitation I read the label where it said Do Not Use on Ferns. I immediately removed the ferns, washed them thoroughly with Naphtha Soap and replanted. At the moment they look fine and I do believe I have gotten rid of the enemy. I have learned the lesson of reading directions more carefully.

Any readers desiring to sell or purchase any back issues of magazine, please contact the Knoxville office direct, as they will give you faster service, instead of writing to the Question Box.

Incidentally, a note received from Lizeta recently states:

Dear Anne

Response from my chapters has been wonderful—except for a very very few who have not answered my letters. I realize this is because the letters have gotten into the hands of a person, probably recipient of a gift subscription, who does not realize or who can not forward my mail to the proper person. Will you ask the members in clubs not having heard from me yet to contact me immediately? I have written EVERYBODY, but have not HEARD from everybody and I do not want to miss one soul. Lizeta Hamilton, 675 Soldier Hill Road, Oradell, N. J.



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## New Affiliated Chapters Green Rosette Awards

*Lizeta Tenney Hamilton, 675 Soldier Hill Road  
Oradell, New Jersey 07649*



Here we are, at the time this goes to our editor, all rushing about for our individual chapter shows and anticipating convention time whether we can go or not—and I have to stop dead in my tracks and write for the June magazine! How ever did my predecessors do it?

Am thrilled to know that we are at an all time high with affiliations of chapters and councils and I doff my hat to you-all! I am not so much considering the number but the wonderful enthusiasm and cooperation you have all given to AVSA through me.

Please, please include your chapter's name and your title in all communications. Only today I looked over all the chapter records in one state to try to find out the relationship of a lovely person to the proper chapter. This takes SO much sleeping time and does not always give results. Sometimes the writer lives just over the border in another state from that of the chapter. Imagine the tizzy your old chapters chairman can be in!!

Word reaches me that AVSA is preparing for the second calendar. Watch the President's messages as to WHERE to send photo entries of plants, set-ups and arrangements—black and white and in color. When in doubt send them to me to forward. In the meantime get

your good color slides, color pictures, and black and whites ready for mailing!! Have you not heard people comment "Oh! I have better than that!"? Well, let me tell YOU that you owe AVSA "better than that"!

Please continue to send in the names of clubs with the presidents' names and addresses that may not yet be affiliated, so that I can follow through. AND if YOU hear someone say, "Oh! We have not heard one word from the Affiliated Chapters Committee", YOU tell them they are not properly listed and to write to me immediately.

Every Chapter has been sent at least one letter and usually more than one letter. I would appreciate it if some representative person from one of these chapters 'who have not heard from me' would write—they will hear by return mail, I assure you. There are but few of these—but I want none!

There is so much I want to say—perhaps the letter sent to the chapters as affiliation dues are paid will cover at least most of the items. I trust this new fiscal year for AVSA will be one of the most successful and one of the most productive in our history—if you all continue as you have with me, how can it but be so?

## NEW CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS

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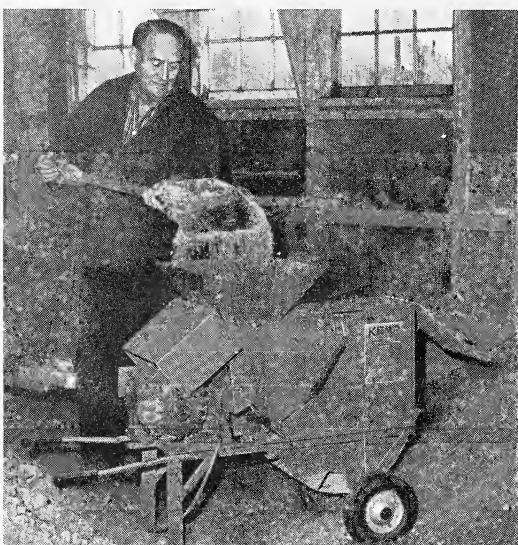
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Mrs. Arthur Hutchins, Show Chairman

4/11/64

### **EAST SUBURBAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**

Mrs. Harold Fleming, Show Chairman  
Theme: "Love Those Violets" 2/14/65

### **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MIAMI**

Mrs. Helen Kelley, Show Chairman  
Theme: "As The World Turns" 2/26 to 28/65

### **AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF PHOENIX**

Mrs. B. H. Forrest, Show Chairman  
Theme: "Alice In Violetland" 2/20, 21/65

## **NEW COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

### **ILLINOIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, INC.**

Miss Alice Johnson, President  
5419 Glenwood Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60640

1/16/65

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Mrs. Mary B. Mullarky of Huntington, West Virginia, who served as a member of the board of directors of the African Violet Society of America during 1951-52, died Feb. 28. Our sympathy is extended her two sons, Hugh D. and William B. Mullarky of Huntington, and her two daughters, Mrs. Philip B. Mishoe of San Francisco and Mrs. Charles T. Barton of Damascus, Md.

## **THE MUNSTERS**

Who wrote "The Munsters"? Will the AVS member who wrote "The Munsters" for publication in the AVS magazine, please get in touch with the editor?

# REGISTRATION REPORT

*Adele Tretter, 4988 Schollmeyer Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri, 63109*



The following applications have been received during the period of November 30, 1964 through February 28, 1965.

*Great Scott* (1499) M-B 26 s L 2/10/65  
*Red Rich* (1500) R-P 23 d S-M 2/10/65

Ernest Fisher, 32 Downsview Ave., Downsview Ontario, Canada.

*Contessa* (1501) WRC 3 dc S 2/20/65  
Bob Kramer, 2923 Portugal Dr., St. Louis, Missouri 63125

*Azalia Rose* (1502) MPX 29 dc S 2/20/65  
*Fringed Pink Swan* (1503) PX 35 df S 2/20/65  
Ernest Fisher, 32 Downsview Ave., Downsview, Ontario, Canada

Fisher, 32 Downsview Ave., Downsview Ontario, Canada.

*Teresa Marie*—2/20/65, Reserved by Mrs. Wm. Kling, 1105 Roosevelt Ave., New Milford, N. J.

*Purple Popcorn*—2/22/65, Reserved by Mrs. H. G. Cook, 1505 Corley, Beaumont, Texas.

*Barbara Mary* (1477) DP 8 d S—*Galaxy of Canada* (1478) RP 59fsc S—10/16/64 Ernest Fisher, 32 Downsview Avenue, Downsview, Ontario, Canada.

## NAME RESERVATIONS

Following are the requests for name reservations since November 30, 1964.

*Junior Miss—Jelveteen—Appaloosa*—12/24/64,  
Reserved by Champion A. V., Vanhoesen Rd., R.D.2, Clay, N. Y.

*Leah's Jewels*—1/16/65, Reserved by Mrs. Louis H. Krause, 250 Railroad St., Slatington, Penna.

*John Bradshaw—Winston Churchill—Canadiana* '67—2/10/65, Reserved by Ernest

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# Fun, Fellowship, Information Mark Baltimore Parley

*Helen Van Pelt Wilson  
Tells of Her  
“12 Joys of Gardening”*

With a total of 618 persons at the Baltimore convention, six of whom were from Canada and one from Mexico City, the three-day parley at the Lord Baltimore Hotel provided opportunity for renewing acquaintances, making new friends, seeing gorgeous plants and getting help with one's AV problems.

The workshops were educational and informative. The fellowship was most delightful. The tours were unusual experiences and instilled a bit more patriotism in the "tourists". The dinners were relaxing and really fun—nothing stuffy nor technical.

Helen Van Pelt Wilson of Westport, Conn., author, African violet expert and "philosopher", and Dr. Henry M. Cathey, horticulturist with the United States Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland, were the dinner speakers.

In an inspirational, and at times humorous, talk, Mrs. Wilson's philosophy of finding sheer delight, happiness and profound contentment in her garden was reflected in her "Twelve Joys of Gardening."

Dr. Cathey's talk, too, was far from technical as he illustrated the control of plant growth by light and chemicals, which he defined as prescriptions for plants. His talk was described by President Frank Burton, as "loaded" with information. From the very beginning he kept his audience amused as well as interested in what next was to be pulled from his "magic" boxes.

Then there were 12-year-old Donald Frazier, the youngest member of the African Violet Society, who was unable to get to the convention until Friday night because of school . . . and Paul Rockelmann, of Fischer's Greenhouses, who was asked, "Will there be a yellow violet?" and his answer was, "There *will* be!" . . . and Dale Eyerdom of Granger's, who started violet growing as a hobbyist 17 years ago and recalling "those were 17 years of mistakes and successes".

Rockleman and Eyerdom were panelists with Albert Buell of Eastford, Conn., and Leila Egentes of Annalee's Violetry at the convention luncheon. Jimmy Watson of New York City was the moderator. All of them answered questions from the audience concerning African violets and their care.

Possibly chief interest at the convention was centered in Dr. Sheldon Reed's report of

his research in hybridization, which began 11 years ago with the genetics of the different traits in the African violet; and Frank Tinari's report of the research on the Pritchard mealy bug, now being carried on by Dr. Robert Snetsinger at Pennsylvania State University.

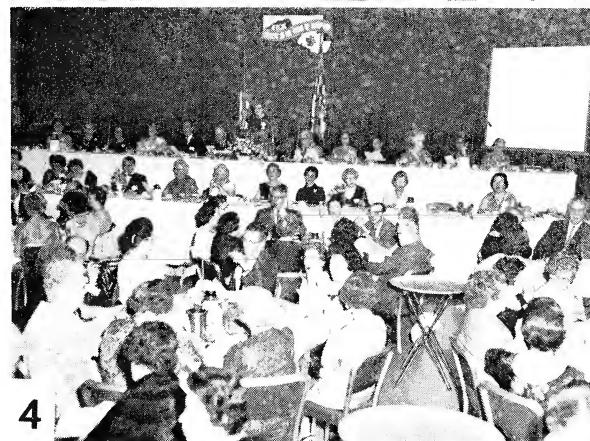
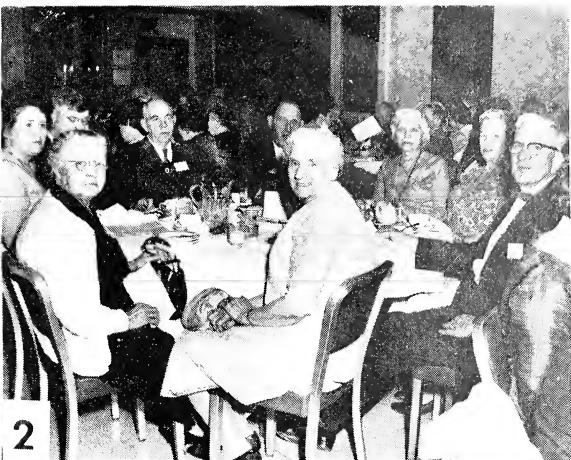
This work is being done through the Boyce Edens Fund. During 1965 a total of \$1362 was raised through donations by affiliated chapters and individuals.

A lot of enthusiasm, too, was engendered by the rising membership in the African Violet Society. "Each member one new member" is to be the slogan for the ensuing year as the National Society continues its drive for new members.

---

**THERE WAS FUN!** — Pictured on the opposite page are some of the 600 persons who attended the banquet at the Baltimore convention at the Lord Baltimore hotel. (These pictures may be ordered by number from A. J. Glenn, 1118 Cedarcraft Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212, and sell for \$2 for 1 and 4; and \$3 for others)





ARRANGEMENTS . . .

# Violets in The Heart Of Maryland

*Mrs. Helen L. Warren  
Assisted by  
Mrs. Ruth Cooper  
Mrs. Clariss A. Wolfe  
Philadelphia, Pa.*

**"The Rockets Red Glare", Mrs. Mel Flaherty,  
Falls Church, Va.**

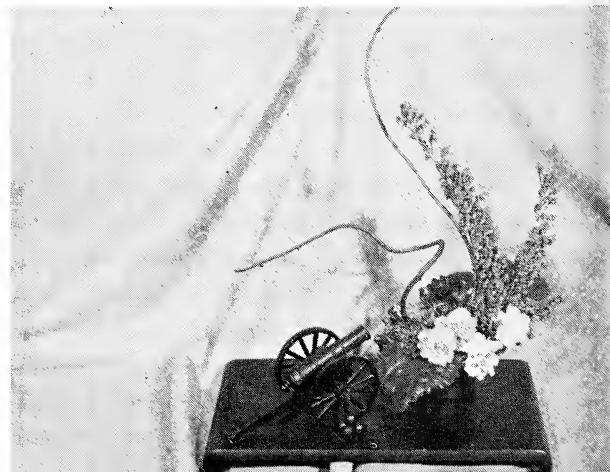
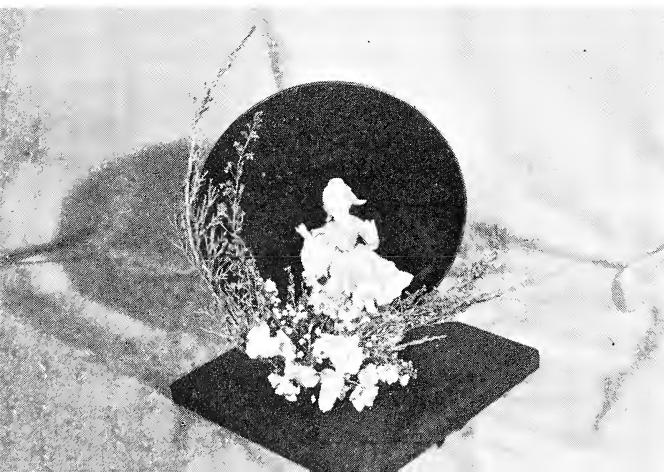
It would be next to impossible to describe everything I saw in the arrangements and the artistic classes, but I will try, at least, to tell you about the outstanding ones I saw at the National Show at the Baltimore convention.

Displaying the theme of the show, the "HEART OF MARYLAND" was opened wide in these classes. Let's begin with arrangements, and the "Warm Welcome to Maryland", Class 42. A Blue Ribbon winner here, and also winner of the "Gov. Tawes Award" of a silver platter, was Mrs. Mel Flaherty of Falls Church, Va. On a black square base, stood a porcelain girl figurine with outstretched arms, behind an arc of heather and pfitzer, accented with pink single and purple double violet blossoms. Add to this a round black background, and you have, just what it was, an outstanding arrangement!

Another Blue Ribbon winner was Mrs T. McKneely of McLean, Va. Her entry consisted of a Colonial Gentleman beside a china cup, filled with all white and purple violet blossoms and Arizona cypress.

**"Welcome to Maryland", Mrs. Mel Flaherty,  
Falls Church, Va.**

**"The Rockets Red Glare", Beatrice Sauter, Baltimore, Maryland.**





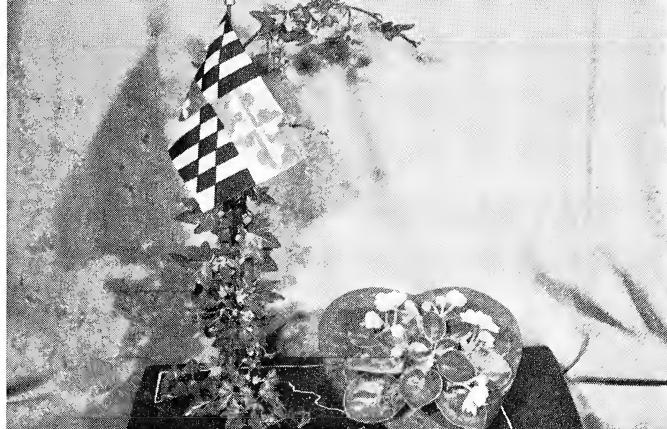
**"Maryland", Norma Ventura, Baltimore, Maryland.**

In "The Rockets' Red Glare" Class 43, Miss Beatrice Sauter of Baltimore, Md., was a Blue Ribbon winner. On a black teak rectangular base, was a small black matte finished container (the black depicting midnight) filled with violet leaves, heather and wisteria vine, accented with light and dark pink and wine violet blossoms. Accessories were a small black cannon and cannon balls.

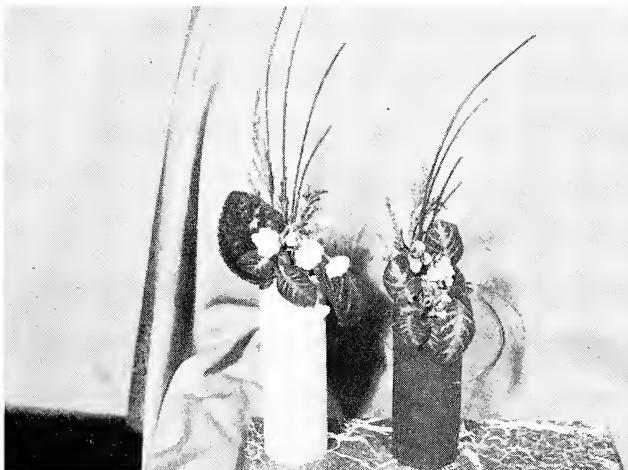
Also, a Blue Ribbon winner in this class, was Mrs. Mel Flaherty of Falls Church, Va. A piece of twisted wisteria vine gave shape to her entry on a black irregular base; in a tall black glass container were pink violet blossoms shading into the fuchsia ones, with heather and enonymus which make a very effective arrangement.

In class 44, "To The Midshipmen of Annapolis," the Blue Ribbon was won by Mrs. Charles Dederer of St. Louis, Mo. Carrying out the blue and white of the Midshipmen, on a black and white marbleized base, were a blue tube container with pfitzer, scotch broom and blue violet blossoms; and a white tube with Scotch broom and episcia leaves accented with white violet blossoms.

Class 45, "Gracious Dining in Maryland", Blue Ribbon winner was Miss Beatrice Sauter



**"Violets in the Heart of Maryland", Mrs. H. A. Mills, Betts, Maryland.**



**"To the Midshipmen at Annapolis", Mrs. C. Dederer, St. Louis, Mo.**

of Baltimore, Maryland. This center piece was a study in symmetry and color. A low-footed dark red glass bowl, using pink sweet-heart roses, spreading yew, red heather with ligustrum for transition, was accented with white and purple variegated violet blossoms.

Class 46 was titled "Maryland". This display was really a miniature show, using empty three-pound ham cans painted in shades of blue, green and black as niches. Tiny china vases and bowls with ivy, heather, and grape vine tendrils, accented by just about all the color violet blossoms there are, were outstanding. The display was a show in itself. Blue

**"Maryland Woodland Scene", Mrs. K. G. Ohlson, Lynn, Massachusetts.**



Ribbon winners in this class were Mrs. Norman Ventura of Baltimore, Md., Miss Beatrice Sauter, Baltimore, Md., Mrs. W. F. Anderson, St. Louis, Mo., and Mrs. Bonnie Heil, Ornfield, Pa.

Class 37, "A Maryland Woodland Scene", was a study of nature. There were many colorful and imaginative designs using woodsy materials, birds and squirrels for accessories. Driftwood predominated in most of these designs. The Blue Ribbon entry of Miss Beatrice Sauter of Baltimore, Md., was a low rectangular container filled with woods moss; scrub pine, driftwood and miniature spruce which made an attractive background for the violet "Firesprite" that nestled in the moss. Other Blue Ribbon winners were Mrs. Bonnie Heil of Ornfield, Pa., Allen Mills of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. K. G. Ohlson, Lynn, Mass.

Going from the woodland to Class 38, "Down the Lazy River", the Blue Ribbon winner was Mrs. Mel Flaherty, Falls Church, Va.

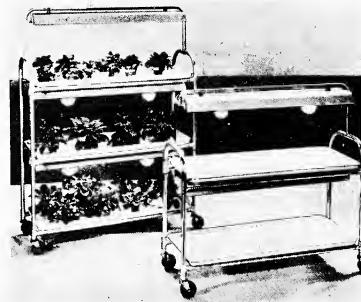
She had as her design, a low rectangular green container. Driftwood in one corner with mountain fern and willow twigs with their curly shoots, formed a change of scene from the opposite end where a Frog sat on a black stony bank looking at the violets, while the lazy river did nothing but lend itself to the scenery.

Class 39, "By the Sea," was a display of just about everything you could find at the seashore, but the sea itself—driftwood, coral sea fan, multi-colored shells, sand and gulls. There were some attractive designs using these materials and the always present violet plants in harmonizing colors. Blue Ribbon winner of this class was Mrs. Charles Dedera, St. Louis, Mo. On an irregularly cut masonite base, as the shoreline, was a semicircular arc of wisteria vine draped with fishing net, scotch broom for line and the African violet plant, "Avis," nestled in the folds of net. This entry also won The Metropolitan St. Louis

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CLASS—Three specimen plants (1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points. Each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks and whites.

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1957—Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Indiana.  
1958—Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York.  
1959—Mrs. John C. Gandy, Columbus, Ohio.  
1960—Mrs. Alexander R. Colver, Brightwaters, New York.  
1961—Mrs. Joseph Trost, Indianapolis, Indiana.  
1962—Mrs. J. W. Sluey, Richmond, California.  
1964—Mrs. George Phillips, Arlington, Texas.  
1965—E. D. Wyke, Columbus, Ind.

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Avis Special Award, a silver bowl.

Class 40 was "Honoring the Maryland Sportsman". Again the driftwood lent itself to some interesting designs featuring the countryside, horses, the hunter, and the illusive ducks. Blue Ribbon winner was Mrs. J. Gossage, Springfield, Va. Facing a background of trees and a wooded section at the far end of the design, came the hunter riding to the hounds. He was seen taking the hurdle and just in front of him was the little red fox looking as if he would run up the tree. Very true to life this one!

Class 41 was "Violets in the Heart of Maryland". These designs, and there were seven entries, depicted the theme of the show. Red hearts were much in evidence here as well as the map of Maryland. And some beautiful designs! Blue Ribbon winner was Mrs. H. A. Mills of Baltimore, Md. Her entry was on a black rectangular base on which was painted, in white outline, a map of Maryland. To the left, was the Maryland State Flag partially furled against driftwood, and centered, was a red felt heart shaped box with ivy and a cut plant of "White Pride Supreme." This entry also won the Mayor Theodore H. McKeldin Award, a silver bowl, for the best entry in this class, "Violets in the Heart of Maryland."

Send your list of favorite violets to Mrs. Theodore Rosenak, 10852 N. Lake View Road, #6-E, Mequon, Wisconsin.



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# Florida Says: Come, See Violets Grown Outdoors

*Mrs. James Morgan  
641 S. W. 5th Ct.  
Hallandale, Florida  
1966 Convention Chairman*



Where palm trees gently sway in the constant breeze of the Trade Winds and where one may do their African violet growing out of doors all year around is where I have been doing just that for the past few years.

Having a helpful and willing husband that just couldn't put up with a home all cluttered up with violets, the better half of the family decided that I should have a Paradise all of my own. With concrete, wood, nails, screening and all of the tools that are required to build a home for Violets, he went to work and the finished product is a screened-in Slat House. Having my own little corner of Heaven is ideal. I no longer have to worry about the Daschounds getting into a prize plant. I have my own potting bench and all of the necessary tools right at hand. Watering is very simple. I use well water with a gentle spray nozzle for all of the watering. The water is always warmer than the air so no ill effects or spotting. All of the benches are filled with moist perlome and the pots sit in this.

Our climate has a natural high humidity which is ideal. As we are semi-tropical, the sun is hot but the air temperature rarely

goes above 90°. There is always a breeze and that provides for good air circulation. Plants bloom all of the year but by August the bloom is small so I remove them and give the strength to the plants to burst forth again in October.

Growing during the winter months while most of the nation is freezing is a joy indeed. During these months, we staple visqueen to the north and west sides of the house to protect from any chill winds. The nights usually go down to 65-70° and the days go up to 75-80°. When the weather bureau warns of a POSSIBLE FROST (the Chamber of Commerce won't like this), there is fast action. Everything is moved indoors in trays and boxes. The cool weather only lasts a day or two and then they are returned out doors.

You will all have the opportunity to see plants grown in this climate under varying conditions. The Convention in 1966 will be held at the Americana Hotel in Bal Harbour on Miami Beach.

We want "YOU ALL" to come and see what the people in this area can grow.

See YOU ALL THEN . . . .



**Achimenes Woodii**

## Newest Achimenes of Botanical Interest

By Paul Arnold

The newest Achimenes, botanically speaking, is *A. Woodii*. It was first published in BAILEYEA under the mailing date of August 24, 1962. The diagnosis was made by Conrad V. Morton of the U. S. National Museum at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C., based on material grown at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York from rhizomes collected in Guerrero, Mexico, near Acapulco, October 17, 1959.

Prof. Harold E. Moore, Jr., director of the Bailey Hortorium, found plants of *Achimenes Woodii* growing at an elevation of about 3500 feet. The plants were growing in limestone rocks on a hillside from which the timber had been cut, thriving in deep shade and also were collected from rocky formations in full sun. Reproductions of the collected material brought back to Ithaca by Dr. Moore for cul-

ture and study under glass were used by Mr. Morton as the type for the new species although similar plants (dried herbarium specimens only) were collected earlier by Dr. Carroll E. Wood, Jr. and Dr. Moore (August 20, 1948) and by Dr. Moore and Dr. George S. Bunting on another collecting trip in September 1961. All of these collections were made in the general vicinity of Acapulco. The name *A. Woodii* was chosen by Mr. Morton to acknowledge the priority of the earlier discovery of the plant by Wood and Moore.

The first commercial introduction of *Achimenes Woodii* has not yet been recorded but it is known that the plants are being grown by C. G. Van Tubergens in Holland and by House of Plants in the United States in addition to various botanical institutions in several countries. Plantsmen who have grown *A. Woodii*

report that it has no cultural requirements different from those of the well established Achimenes species and hybrids. The habitat observations recorded by Prof. Moore have, of course, emphasized the need for adequate limestone components in the growing media which growers customarily supply by the use of gravel, calcite or oyster shell.

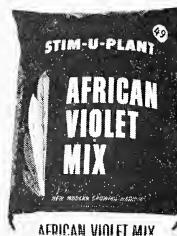
Not one of the showy Achimenes with large and colorful flowers, *A. Woodii* has small, white flowers with a tube about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long and the limb of the corolla about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch across. The flowers are numerous, however, and are borne on rather dwarf plants. The

dwarf stature and floriferous character of the plants (up to 12 flowers emerging from an axil) may interest plant breeders, but otherwise the newest Achimenes may be considered mainly of botanical interest. It has been assigned, taxonomically to the *Dicyrta* section of Achimenes, along with *A. candida* and *A. misera*, two other species with small, white flowers.

Have you ever thought of giving a year's membership in the African Violet Society of America as a gift for Christmas or as a birthday gift? A gift card will be enclosed.

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23. Kills aphids & mites,
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# West Coast Contributions



Clarissa Harris  
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Calimesa, Calif.

As usual at this season of the year there develops a tremendous upsurge of violet enthusiasm for African violets begin to put up their glamorous faces in profusion and what a relief to know they have weathered the winter months! There is a buzz and thoughts turn to shows.

How violet lovers begin to dream of what this or that plant will be at show time and the tender loving care goes into our efforts to give them everything they need. It is true that by the time this copy is published many of the shows will be a matter of record and it is hoped that the year 1965 will be one that is good for everyone. The convention will have passed into history and all the lovely new things will be started on their way with the hope that our hybridizers have given us more wonderful material (African Violets) to work with and the difficult process of eliminating some of the old ones will take place or more room will be made for the additions to our collections.

Now that we have given our soil mix which must always be the staff of life to growing plants, we hope by giving you something to analyze and if unable to obtain the identical ingredients you may find substitutes that even do better for you, we want to give our fertilizing program that has proved successful over the years and we feel does not deplete the plants as some more strenuous forcings do.

First, may we say, it has always been a deep conviction that there is no product better for all African violets and is especially fine when you are growing specimen plants and that is Fish Emulsion. This organic fertilizer develops rich healthy foliage that carries a beautiful luster as well as developing broad healthy leaves without lengthening petioles and a fine symmetrical plant results.

An idea we took from Mr. Parker that is proving satisfactory is to give the newly potted plantlets a small drink of warm water, and we use the word small for too many of these little fellows drop by the wayside when watered too generously the first time. Then for the second watering, which should follow in two or three days, use  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of fish emulsion in a gallon of water. This takes the place of

the many vitamin products used and it seems to work better for this writer, and the plantlets take off. After a month we use the regular fertilizing as for all plants. Would like for others to try this idea and let us know if you have better results. Yes, even de-odorized fish has some odor but it soon dissipates. Have always found that feeding with fish during the hot weather helps the plants.

Now, for our forcing for bloom at a certain time: Eight to ten weeks before the desired date and here we get out our calendar and begin putting down our steps. This year what a pleasure it is to have the African Violet Calendar with space for recording activities and the many other worthwhile things to be gained from this book besides the pictures which add stimulus to our work. How can a violet lover be without one of these? As you know your National office has them for sale and there is an allowance for club orders and Tinari's Greenhouses advertise them for sale in the magazine. It is my hope that Hearthside Press will continue to offer such a publication each year.

This may be considered a slow forcing program but succeeds and the plants continue to do well all summer regardless of an occasionally very hot spell.

Combine equal parts of Fish Emulsion, the creamy thick type, and Hi-Bloom, a liquid acid fertilizer in a bottle. We usually mix a cup of each, for it is so good to always have this available and there is no deterioration but the bottle must have a plastic cap or after a time it will corrode while the plastic does not.

We did mention the trade name of the product used which may not be available in your area but then there are two or three others here that would be satisfactory to use. The formula is 4-10-10 or could be 2-10-10 and still work satisfactorily, but the manufacturer's representative could tell you if it is acid or it may be on the label. It should also be compatible with the fish, but most likely that formula would be or if you do not need the

acidity, then a liquid fertilizer of this consistency may be used.

The doctor would tell you to shake well before taking and likewise this mixture must be well mixed before measuring out. As one of our nice people once said in a talk—"When you use a fertilizer stir and stir until your arm aches, then you know it is well mixed."

Now measure one tablespoon of this mix to one gallon of luke warm water—preferably rain. Note on the calendar on this date fertilized and you are ready to administer the violets their first regular dose of forcing. Do this every two weeks for five or six times, watering with plain water in between, or once in a while you may use your dependable hormone which you think helps the blossoms to be larger. It is usually a week or two before show that the feeding is stopped and the plant is allowed only regular watering.

As to disbudding—this is a subject we are not able to advise about, only to say that long before the feeding program while the plant is developing the buds are kept off so the plant may form perfectly. Should your flower stems hide themselves among the leaves they are getting too much light and should be moved away from this strong light. As an example, a plant has been grown from a plantlet with the idea of making it a specimen plant. After about 12" in diameter the leaves were so large the center leaves were unable to have room to push up, therefore the plant that was at that time perfectly flat in growth was taken out from under the Gro-lux lights and placed on a table between two light carts. Kept there and carefully watched for over a month, for it was certain if not moved the flower stems would not appear well above the foliage and though some think a flat plant is much to be desired it can be too flat for all general purposes. Result: The center leaves showed signs of opening up and when the plant showed that it was open enough for the flower stems to come up without interference, it is now back under the lights with five bloom stems up and blossoms opening and there are many more buds just coming thru. These are heavy bloomers and large blossoms. The stems are strong and stand up some 2 to 3 inches above the foliage. That is exactly what is wanted of the plant and since it is a newer variety, we are hoping the flowers will be long lasting and will open up more uniformly. If they will be as long lasting as Shag, Fury or June Hero it will be terrific by show time and that

is what we are all looking for, isn't it?

Oh yes, this article would not be complete without a few warnings. Have available a good mildew spray for this is the season when it may appear. Sometimes it is not as readily seeable until the damage has been done and an occasional spraying lightly as a preventable measure is profitable. A Karathane spray for Powdery Mildew is used and our regular spraying for mite is observed along with an occasional general spray with Wondergarden spray rounds out preventative measures.

Much is going on in Southern California and the most outstanding is a swing to miniatures and small growing plants. Someday the dream of seeing three miniatures take the National Gold Rosette may yet come true. Do hope there will be an article sometime on a grower's success with the small plants for we have asked Dorothy Parker to write one. Sure hope she has time for she has given some most interesting letters on this subject.

You have written with the desire to acquire some of the Parker plants. Write H. C. Parker, Yuciapa, address in the handbook with regard to shipping leaves.

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# Fungus Diseases: Prevention Is Best

By Bernard D. Greeson  
3548 N. Cramer Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

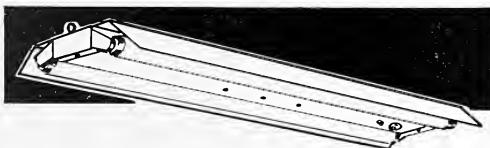
(This is the second in a series of articles on fungus diseases)

Several days ago, I received a letter from an African violet grower in which she described the condition of her African violets. She asked for a diagnosis of the trouble and a remedy. Since the symptoms were obvious, the diagnosis was simple. But the remedy was not a welcome one, yet it was the only one left: That is to throw the plants away and begin all over again. The point of this little object lesson is the title of an article that appeared in the March 1963 issue of the African Violet Magazine. It was "Prevention is Best, A Cure May be Too Late."

The commercial grower, who must depend upon a healthy product, for his livelihood, is ever vigilant in maintaining good cultural conditions and carries on regular insect disease preventive program to protect his product. While most of us do not grow African violets for a livelihood, nonetheless, we do not like to lose our favorite plants. We can well afford to take a serious lesson from the commercial grower and practice the policy: "An ounce of prevention is

worth a pound of cure".

On the evening of March 12, my wife and I attended a meeting of the Milwaukee County African Violet Society. The speaker was Forrest Richter, who is widely known for his expert hybridizing of African violets, and is the owner of Richter's Greenhouse in Highland, Indiana. Mr. Richter made a very important point in his speech about growing violets. That point is that if you have the right soil and growing conditions, the chances are very good that you will have plants that will resist disease and insect pests.



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## Acid Soil Causes Troubles

Mr. Richter pointed out that when soil is too acid, violet plants do not grow well, if at all, and the resulting plants are weak, low in resistance, and easy prey for disease and insects. Violet soil should have a pH test of 6.5 to 7. Soil showing more acidity than this should be treated with calcium carbonate (lime).

"Lime added to the soil", he said, "acts almost like a transfusion to the plant".

The two experiences, just related, have been included at the beginning of this article (at the risk of being digressive) because they amplify so aptly, and so specifically the point we have tried to make so often, in our several articles: That the good grower is "preventive-minded".

## What Are Fungi?

It has been said, that we fear the least the things we can see, and we fear the most, that which we cannot see. Such is the case with fungus diseases, for we cannot see the individual fungus spores which are present all around us. Fungi reproduce by means of very small spores, invisible to the naked eye. The

number of spores which are produced by fungus growths probably is beyond mathematical computation. These tiny spores can be spread on the tips of watering cans, they may travel in air currents, and in innumerable ways, are spread from plant to plant. They may lie dormant in a thousand and one different places in the plant room, basement or greenhouse and for a very long time, before the right conditions arise to make them spring to life and attack your violet plants. When those conditions are "ripe", and a fungus disease onslaught begins, it is then a case of "survival of the fittest". This is the time when "preventive cultural methods" (good soil, proper pH, regular feeding and spraying, etc.) pay off. Carrying this idea one step farther, the chances are very good, that if your preventive program has been good enough—you may never be bothered with a fungus disease at all.

Fungi are really plants which vary in size from very minute to very large. Shelf bracket molds, seen on decaying logs; common toadstools in the lawn, and mold on foodstuffs, are quite visible examples of this class of plants.

Fungi do not have chlorophyll and there-

fore do not manufacture their own food, as do green plants. They feed upon the bodies of other organisms. Some feed upon dead organisms. They are called "saprophytes". Failure to keep spent blossoms and leaves picked up is an invitation to such fungi. On the other hand, saprophytes performs a service in the decay of dead organic matter.

The fungi which concerns us are the kind which cause plant diseases and these are called "parasites". They live on live organisms. A fungus plant consists of a brown threadlike branching mycelium. When a fungus spore germinates, its mycelium grows over the surface of tiny roots and root-hairs. The mycelium penetrates into the root tissues, digesting them for its own nutrition. This is the start of fungus disease.

Almost everyone has seen mold on bread. The black or greenish colored powdery dust on top of the bread mold, or white powdery material seen on violet buds and blossoms consists of literally millions of spores which are the means of reproduction. What cannot be seen easily are the many tiny mycelium or roots which penetrate tender tissues and

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sap the plant juices or life blood.

Spores are not the only means of fungus growth or reproduction. Tiny bits of mycelium in the soil, on flats, old boards, dirty pots, etc., may lie dormant for a long time. When conditions are right, these bits of mycelium will begin growing again. Water running out of the pot of an infected plant may carry mycelium bits to other plants and thus infection is spread. Mycelium bits may be spread by a particle of soil or on the tip of a plant label or marker.

#### **Poor Culture Causes Disease**

In Part I of this article, which appeared in the March 1965 issue of the African Violet Magazine (page 14)—a serious fungus disease was discussed—Botrytis Blight. The spores of this fungus are present in a dormant condition almost everywhere around us. As long as you don't create the proper conditions for the germination and development of these spores, Botrytis will probably never happen in your plant collection. Plants weakened by poor cultural methods (which on the other hand, are ideal for fungus development) will usually succumb to a fungus infection.

The first question to be asked when symptoms of fungus infection appear is "What have I done wrong culturally?" What fungicide to use is only a partial answer. The most important part of the answer is to determine what cultural condition started it all, in the first place.

#### **Root Rot**

Root rot is caused by water molds (Pythium and Phytophthora) and by a fungus (Rhizoctonia Solani).

Violets afflicted with root rot seem to stand still and do not grow or bloom. No amount of

watering or feeding seems to make any difference. Upon dumping the plant out of the pot, you will probably find that the root system is badly deteriorated, showing no new growth or tiny root hairs. It is through the tiny root hairs on the ends of the branch roots that plants get water and food through the process of osmosis. If there are no root hairs, if the roots are concentrated in the top of the pot, if the roots are rotten or lifeless, then your best course is to throw the plant away.

Root rot may result from a number of causes. They include: (1) Overwatering, (2) desert to swamp watering methods, (3) use of unsterilized soil, (4) sour soil, (5) using soil that is too heavy (soil can also be too light and fail to support the plant).

If root rot has not gone too far, you may be able to save the plant by removing the plant from the soil, washing off all of the old soil, dusting the roots with Fermate, or Phaltan and repotting in new and sterilized soil, tested and corrected to the proper acidity.

Sometimes, it is also possible to cut the damaged roots off and re-root the plant in vermiculite or other good propagation mediums. Be sure, however, to treat all cuts with a fungicide.

Some growers have written to ask if VC-13 is a sure cure for root rot. VC-13 is not a fungicide. It is a nemacide or soil insecticide for use in ridding soil of nematodes. It will not kill nematodes inside the plant roots, however. For more information on this subject, see my article on VC-13 in the December 1964 issue of the African Violet Magazine.

#### **Crown Rot**

The causes of crown rot and root rot are

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comparable, except that crown rot may also be caused by planting a plant too deeply. Symptoms are much the same with the usually wilted appearance and general debility. In the case of crown rot, the plant simply rots off at the level of the dirt in the pot. As in the case of root rot, a plant may be saved if the fungus disease has not penetrated too far into the stalk or crown. Cut the plant off, trimming the diseased areas and treating all cuts with Fermate or Phaltan. Support the plant with pipe cleaners or plastic labels in a rooting medium—and hope.

Some growers recommend adding Fermate or Phaltan to the soil mix to prevent crown rot. This is probably a good idea and I would certainly recommend it. But this is not the complete answer. The most certain preventive measure is to use only sterilized soil with a pH of 6.5—7.

Of equal importance is the avoidance of over and under-watering, and being careful not to get water in the center of the plant.

We will conclude this series in the September issue with a discussion of Powdery Mildew and Damping Off which are also fungus diseases.



**TUBE CRAFT AWARD**—E. D. Wyke of Columbus, Ind., was the winner of the Tube Craft Award with his "White Perfection," "American Joy" and "Cambridge Pink."

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It requires nine plants, preferably plants out of small pots, just ready to bloom. Single crown plants and varieties that don't get too bushy are recommended.



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**IN ALASKA**

# **A Club Is Born**

It may be true that there is nothing new under the sun, but there is something new in the land where the Northern Lights lend enchantment: where Jack Frost presents the traditional spectacle of the season, *SNOW BALLET*, and the temperature dips far below.

**THE SOMETHING NEW:** An African Violet Club, the first in Alaska, was recently formed in Anchorage. The new club has been named: *ANCHORAGE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, ALASKA.*

The club really had it's beginning a few years back when Evelyn Huntington was traveling in the south 48, with a stopover in Kansas City, Missouri. Searching for ways to pass the time in a city often brings to light many unusual things of interest. The morning paper carried notice that an African Violet Club was holding a show that day. With nothing special in mind to do, so why not go and see the pretty flowers? She knew almost nothing about African violets, but the display and variety of lovely blooming plants interested her very much. During her visit, she gathered all of the literature she could find and talked with different people about the plants. During the continuance of her travels she gave the possibilities much thought and while in Iowa, visited the Henry Field Seed Co. in Shenandoah. They did not have a large selection of plants at the time, but she purchased one of each they were showing.

The plants survived the trip to Alaska well, even with two stopovers enroute. Growing the plants proved successful and a most interesting venture. Little did she realize that she had found, quite by accident, a hobby and business that would eventually keep her busy full time and supplement her retirement income. Miss Huntington began experimenting with the violets under the existing difficult conditions, weatherwise and lightwise. For about three months of the winter, there is but approximately five (5) hours of sunlight; not to mention the numerous gray overcast days.

To begin with, she set up several home made flower shelf units and found that the new Gro Lux Lights would bloom the plants the year around when the required cultural care was given.

The first of the year 1963, after many years of office routine, she resigned from her job and began to work with the violets full

time. By this time she had more lighted shelves and several Flora-Cart units, filled with plants numbering 3,000 or more.

Having only a small home, it wasn't long, of course, until something had to give to make room for the new varieties being advertised in the African Violet Magazine, so she went in search of an outlet. To begin with, she set up a small flower stand in a very busy Anchorage supermarket. To make a long story short, patrons of the store soon relieved her of any excess and were clamoring for more. Currently she uses a prominent garden and seed store, along with a flower shop for outlets, and is going right along.

Of course, African violets have been grown by a few people in Alaska for years, but during the past two years, through Miss Huntington's efforts, they have taken hold in an astonishing burst of popularity. Hundreds of cool home-makers have warmed up to the pretty little African violet plants that may be encouraged, with a little extra light and minimum care, to bloom so profusely during the long, cold, dark months of an Alaskan winter.

It is estimated that 90% of all indoor plants were destroyed during the earthquake last March, either by breakage as they hit the floor, or by freezing before utilities could be restored.

During the weeks that followed, through inquiries from customers who were replacing their beloved house plant collections, it was evident that many people were interested in learning more about African violet culture.

*At least the time seemed right!* From the listings of club activities in the African Violet Magazine, it is apparent that most communities support active clubs. Miss Huntington was convinced that if other places could afford nice clubs, surely a cosmopolitan city the size of Anchorage could; especially since the winter season and the versatile African

violet combine so well to provide the indoor gardener a busy, interesting season of at least six months, or more, duration. The field is wide and open for so much pleasurable winter, indoor gardening. With the many variations of lighting arrangements to boost the blooming, how can one miss?

Miss Huntington felt that if an interested group could be brought together and a bona-fide club formed, the achievements would be unlimited.

So-o-o-o-o was born the Anchorage African Violet Club.

## Editor's Column

Coincidences happen every day to someone. Here's one I'd like to tell you about. *Mrs. E. N. Bartlett*, who lives in the fabulous Moody House in Galveston, Texas, and her friends wanted to organize an African Violet club. She remembered reading years ago that the African Violet Society was organized in Atlanta, Ga. So she wrote a letter to Atlanta, enclosing a self-addressed envelope. About two weeks later she found her self-addressed envelope in her mail box—postmarked Cincinnati, Ohio. Inside was a small slip of paper with a single unsigned line: "Contact *Grace Foote*, Port Arthur, Texas." She remembered *Mrs. Joseph W. Brooks*, another resident at Moody House, originally hailed from Port Arthur, just a stone's throw from Galveston. She told *Mrs. Brooks* her story and showed her the slip of paper. "Why *Grace* is one of my dearest friends" was her shriek of surprise. A long distance call was made with *Mrs. Bartlett* later writing: "The magazine, Green Thumb rules and the sheet telling how to organize and a sample of the by-laws are just exactly what I was looking for when I wrote to Atlanta . . . and all the time the information I wanted was almost next door". Small world, isn't it, especially to African Violet growers . . . *Mrs. Virgil Chiado*, a widow who resides on Shoreline Highway North, Little River, Calif., 95456, writes saying, "I have missed hearing from Round Robin friends since they seem to be a thing of the past. Hope to hear from them some day." Do you remember the Round Robin days? Just heard that *Gertrude Dommenga* of Hasbrouck Heights, N. J., is still a group of seven Round Robins and says she wouldn't give it up for anything. So you see there's still interest in Round Robins . . . *Miss Effie B. Porch*, of Lansing, Ill., president of the First African Violet Society of Ham-

mond, Ind., writing that she would like to see more eight or 10, or possibly 12-line, poems in the AVS magazine, which would be suitable for an AVS yearbook. Poets, get busy. Hope too many of you didn't notice in the March magazine that the picture of *Sky Trailer* and *Double Pink Rock* were reversed? A thousand pardons, *Anne Tinari*!

. . . Mrs. Kirkland writes from the Portland chapter that "We were caught in the December flood with four feet of water in our new home. Things have been somewhat of a muddle ever since . . ." We have just learned with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Lance (Lillie) Martin, president of the Green Thumb African Violet Society of Fayetteville, Ark.

## VIOLETS THREE

By *Inez Smitha*

Old Queen Cole was a merry old soul  
And a merry old soul was she.  
She called for her soil  
And she called for her pots  
And she called for her Violets three.  
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# Exhibiting And Judging

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Again I want to remind all judges to check their African Violet Society of America dues or membership cards to determine if their dues are current.

All judges whose dues were not paid at the time the judges list was typed for the Editor are not listed with the judges.

Keep all schedules of shows judged and have them signed by the local judges chairman. These schedules are required as evidence of shows judged if you are applying for a Life Time Judges Certificate. Read the July issue carefully for any additions or changes in the rules.

Q. If only 1 or 2 of the plants in an entry for the Gold and Purple Rosettes are eligible for blue ribbons, should they be given?

A. Yes, they should be given.

Q. If an exhibit for the Gold or Purple class does not win all three blue ribbons, may those won count toward sweepstakes?

A. Yes, if an exhibit wins 1, 2 or 3 blue ribbons, they may be counted.

Q. What are the requirements to become an African Violet Society of America qualified

judge?

A. The rules are published in the July issue of the African Violet Society of America magazine, known to many members as the Member's Handbook.

Q. How many plants are required in the class or the Gold and Purple rosettes?

A. Three registered named varieties of African violets.

Q. How many points should each plant receive to win the Gold Rosette?

A. The entry receiving the highest score between 90-100 points.

Q. How many points should each plant score to win the Purple Rosette?

A. The entry receiving the second highest score between 90 - 100 points.

Q. How many sets of Gold and Purple Rosettes may be given in a local show?

A. Two sets, one Gold and Purple to an amateur member (individual member of the African Violet Society of America), and one Gold and Purple to a commercial member (Commercial member of the African Violet Society of America).

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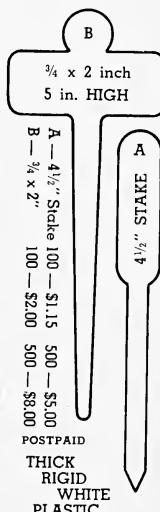
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TO INSURE GOOD SERVICE--READ WELL--REFER TO WHEN WRITING.

ALWAYS GIVE YOUR COMPLETE NAME AND ADDRESS: IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM BE SURE THEY GO TO THE CORRECT PERSON. EXAMPLE:—A request for Back Issue List, a PLANT Name Registration, and an order for Society Pin would require three separate letters to three different people. If these were all included in one letter to any of the addresses you would not only receive poor service but would create a lot of work for people already working to capacity.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS. Send to Mr. Winfred Albright, Treasurer, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee 37901. Membership dues:— Individual \$4.00 per year, Commercial \$13.33 per year. Make checks or money orders payable to AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. Membership year is from March 1 to last day of following February. Magazine included in year's membership are June, July, Sept., Dec. and March of following year. Members joining after June will be sent all back issues which go with their membership year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Send to same address as above and make checks to same order... This is the year in which we are changing over to single date dues. You have the option of paying a portion of a year's dues to renew to Feb. 28, 1966 or paying this portion plus 1966 dues at a savings to you for giving your society a help with the bookkeeping. The amounts due for each option are given in the Dec. 1964 magazine and will also be shown on your renewal notice. PLEASE FOLLOW THIS SCHEDULE AS TO AMOUNT. Sending the usual amount of \$4.00 if your month calls for \$3.35 or \$7.00 will cause a lot of extra work and delay.

## AFFILIATED CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS AND RE-

NEWSALS: Same address as for individual membership. BUT PLEASE BE SURE TO GIVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. Name of club or chapter: President's name and address. Address to which magazines are to be sent if different from President's: Name of town or city considered home town of club. Be sure correct information is at Knoxville by March 1st to assure correct listing in Handbook.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send your new address to A.V.S., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn. 37901, at least 30 days before it is to take effect if possible. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible the address label from your last magazine. Remember that new stencil must be made for your address change and your envelope is addressed from three weeks to a month prior to your receipt of it and shipped to the printer from the Knoxville office.

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE: Write to AVSA, Inc. P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn. 37901, for a list of those available. Reduced rates in effect. Complete your set now. Do not send money until you receive list as some issues are not available.

CULTURE SHEETS: 'Green Thumb Rules for African Violets' for distribution at your show or by commercial members with their sales of plants. Membership application on bottom. In pads of 50 or 100. Free from Knoxville office. Please give quantity required.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Describes all varieties from 1935 to present. A must for all judges and serious growers. Includes latest supplement. 176 pages. Send \$3.00 to AVSA, Inc., P. O. Box 1326 Knoxville, Tenn. 37901.

MAGAZINE BINDERS: Beautiful Green Binders with Gold Lettering to preserve your African Violet Magazines. Sold only in pairs at \$6.50 pair, postpaid. Send order and check to Knoxville office.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Available at \$85.00 from Knoxville office.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS AND BROCHURES ABOUT SOCIETY:—Free from Knoxville office. Please state quantity required. Use on your show information table, commercial sales rooms or any other place where membership may be solicited.

MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIETY PROMOTION:—Send your ideas, offers to help, or requests for assistance in this most important work to Charles Day, 220 West Sunset Road, San Antonio, Texas 78209.

ARTICLES FOR AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE:—Write to or send articles of interest to Mrs. Grace Foote, Editor, 211 Allien Place, Port Arthur, Texas. Write of your own experiences, urge a friend with an interesting story to write of theirs. Photographs cannot be returned except by previous arrangement with the editor.

CLUB AND SHOW NEWS:—Send to Mrs. John C. Cuneo, Jr., 58 Hill St., Tewksbury, Mass.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS:—June issue, Mar. 5, Sept. issue, June 5, Dec. issue Sept. 5, March issue Dec. 5.

QUESTION BOX QUESTIONS:—Send to Anne Tinari, Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Penn.

ADVERTISING RATES, COPY, AND INFORMATION:—

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**PLANT REGISTRATION:**—For information and forms for Registration of New Varieties or Name Reservation write to Mrs. Fred Tretter—Chairman Registration Committee, 4988 Schollmeyer Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

**MASTER LIST SUPPLEMENT 1964 VARIETIES:**—Send names and descriptions of any new varieties for 1964 and name of hybridizer to Mrs. Tretter at above address. This will insure a truly complete listing especially of some of the varieties of smaller hybridizers whose plants are not distributed nationally.

**OFFICIAL SOCIETY JEWELRY:**—Write to Mrs. E. Pearle Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. Beautiful pins, Past Presidents Pins, Life Member Pins, etc. Own and wear them with pride.

**BEST VARIETIES LISTS:**—Send list of your own or your clubs favorite 25 varieties to Mrs. Theodore Rosenak, 10852 N. Lake View Road #6-E Mequon, Wisconsin. The larger the number of members who cast their ballots the greater will be the value of this listing.

**AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION:**—Write to Mrs. Lizeta Hamilton, 675 Soldier Hill, Rd., Oradell, N. J. 07649. Be sure to have current name and address of your chapter president to Mrs. Hamilton by March 1, 1965 to assure proper listing in the 1965 Handbook.

**AFFILIATED CHAPTER SHOW AWARDS:**—Write to Mrs. Hamilton at above address.

**AFFILIATED CHAPTER FORMATION:**—Write to Mrs. Hamilton at above address for help in starting an affiliated chapter in your area. Get in on all the fun.

**JUDGING SCHOOL:**—For information on holding a judging school or to become a qualified judge write to Mrs. Ruth Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville, Tenn. 37918.

**RESEARCH:**—Send suggested items which you feel need scientific research or interested qualified potential research personnel to Mr. Frank Tinari, Chairman, Research committee, Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Penn.

**BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS:**—Send to Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, chairman, 4463 W. Seneca Tpke, Syracuse 16, N. Y. These may be from clubs or individuals and every penny goes to vital research.

**LIBRARY COLOR SLIDE PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM PACKETS:**—Available from AVSA, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn. See listing of programs available elsewhere in this issue or write to Knoxville.

**LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT:**—If you have choice slides of varieties on Best Varieties List when you would like to donate to Library Program of that name send them to Mrs. W. F. Anderson, 360 Tulip Drive, St. Louis, Mo. If some member of your club does a particularly good program on any special violet subject make it into a packet suitable for use by other clubs and send it to Mrs. Anderson. Many of our present program packets are obsolete and your help will build a much more useful library of material to make club programs interesting.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:**—Requests for action by Board of Directors, etc. Write to Mrs. William J. Krogman, Secretary, 1325 Parkway Drive, Brookfield, Wis.

**COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:**—Albert Buell, chairman, Buell's Greenhouses, Eastford, Conn.

**CONVENTION TIME AND PLACE:**—If your club or group of clubs would like to sponsor a future National Convention in your area write to Mrs. Harold H. Baker, Chairman Convention Time and Place, 2162 Stamford Ave.,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

**NEW AWARDS:**—Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson, 761 Belvidere Ave., Westfield, N. J. 07090 is looking for suggestions or contributions for new awards for Miami convention.

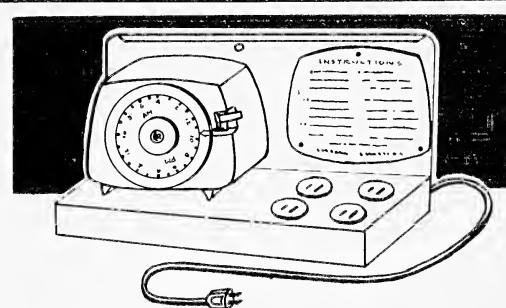
**SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS:**—All improvements start with an idea. Set your thinking cap on and send yours to specific Committee Chairman who could use it or to any of your Officers or Directors.

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# SINNINGIA DOLLBABY

By Lyndon Lyon  
Dolgeville, N.Y.

You will love to meet your exciting new Kissing Cousin "Dollbaby". She is the long sought fertile diploid hybrid of the tiny *Sinningia pusilla* and promises a whole new world of elfin slipper flowered ever-blooming lovlies for the window-sill gardener.

Lilac colored flowers are  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long with a darker eye split by chartruese and held 3 to 4 inches above a dark veined 4-to-6 inch plant. As a possible bridge between the tiny *Sinningia pusilla* and the spectacular florist gloxinia, Dollbaby promises unequaled opportunities of exploration and adventure for the hybridiser.

Dollbaby began as in inspiration of Ruth Katzenberger of New York City, a brilliant

student and author of gesneriads who dared to dream and do something about it. Her crosses of *Sinningia pusilla* X *Sinningia eumorpha* eventually produced a seedling which developed into a beautiful small slipper flowered plant that she practically guarded with her life.

When the Katzenbergers and their friends the Cassalees stopped at our greenhouses on their way to the Gloxinia convention at Cornell, Ithaca, N. Y., she had the little plant with her and when I saw it I knew that I must some how obtain some of it.

She is a very lovely person and when I suggested it she gave me a leaf. This leaf was finally coaxed into producing several plants



Ruth Katzenberger of New York City, author and traveller gave us a leaf from her cross *Sinningia "DOLLBABY"*. Hundreds of crosses were made on plants from this leaf with mixed Gloxinia and X Gloxinera pollen, three little seedlings were finally produced.

We were amazed to find the anthers of the first seedling to bloom loaded with pollen. Seedlings of this plant will be featured in our new price list as *Sinningia "DOLLBABY"* along with other startling new innovations in Violets and other Gesneriads.

## **Sinningia "DOLLBABY"** **A GENETIC MIRACLE**

A fertile hybrid of the world's tiniest relative of the florist Gloxinia (*Sinningia pusilla*), crossed by *Sinningia eumorpha*. Sterile seedlings have always previously resulted.

## **LYNDON LYON** **GREENHOUSES**

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and although they appeared completely sterile I pollinated them for several months. First with X Gloxinera pollen and later with pollen from a pink slipper gloxinia.

The seed appeared shrunken and worthless, but I planted it anyway. One seedling finally came up and later two more, when the No. one seedling blossomed I was surprised to find its anthers loaded with pollen. The plant in every other way looked exactly like its seed parent and in no way resembled either the X Gloxinera or slipper gloxinia from which the pollen was obtained.

The No. two seedling did look like slipper gloxinia and the third was still tiny.

The No. one seedling selfed easily and its pollen was effective in producing seed when back crossed on the mother plant (seed from both crosses were planted Dec. 13-1964). Here was a mystery, previous crosses of *Sinningia pusilla* X *Sinningia eumorpha* were always sterile and only produced seed when brought to the tetraploid level by the use of Colchicine. Was this plant a tetraploid? What happened?

I wrote to Dr. Sheldon Reed of St. Paul, Minn. about this and sent him some seed.

He replied:

"Many thanks for the seeds, which I have planted with tender loving care. They were in our mail box at -10 degrees below zero for a couple of hours so they may not germinate but we will hope so.

"I don't know what the answer is but I suspect it is parthenogenesis, the doubling of the chromosomes in the unfertilized egg. This is the way dandelions and many other plants reproduce in nature. No pollen enters the egg. The pollen you used stimulated the egg cell to divide but did not enter the egg. It will be interesting to see if your other two plants do show evidence of the father's chromosomes.

"The seedlings from your selfed plant should all be very much alike as each chromosome set is just duplicated. It is not a tetraploid but a diploid arising by parthenogenesis.

"Charlie Fischer has had a similar experience. Paul put *Sinningia pusilla* pollen on one of our dwarf trumpet gloxinias and thought the progeny were hybrids. However, they were all small red trumpets just like the mother with no hint of any *Sinningia pusilla* heredity. The *Sinningia pusilla* pollen is a close enough relative so that it grows down the style and stimulates the egg cell to divide but the *Sinningia pusilla* chromosomes are too foreign to be accepted in the cell.

"I shall look forward with the greatest interest to the flowering of the seedlings you

have growing now. While I said that all should be alike, this might not be so, though they ought to be rather similar."

Previously Ruth Katzenberger had named her new seedling Dollbaby and I was delighted when she asked me to introduce it for her, but was also concerned because I doubted if I could produce them in quantity from leaves and side shoots. When the seed planted Dec. 13th. germinated, grew vigorously and when each seedling looked exactly like each other, I began to think perhaps this was the answer. I wrote to Ruth about it and she agreed the name Dollbaby include identical appearing descendants of her original Dollbaby.

This is how our new fertile diploid Kiss- ing Cousin Dollbaby was born. The seed that spent  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. in Dr. Reed's mail box at -10 degree below zero germinated and some of the seed planted Dec. 13-1964 blossomed before April 1, 1965 with anthers loaded with pollen, both from the No. one seedling and the back cross to the mother plant.

This is the end of my story but not the end of Dollbaby who will always be the delight of dreamers with young ideas.

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# Contributions Help Swell Boyce Edens Research Fund

By Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, Chairman  
4463 W. Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, N. Y. 13215



GREETINGS to all the members, friends and affiliated chapters who have helped to make the work of this committee so rewarding. There is a great deal of letter writing, reports, thank yous and so forth that goes with the workings of this committee, but it has seemed all worthwhile because of your loyal support this past year. Most checks I have received this year have been larger than in previous years and I have heard from many new groups that had never given before. This is all very encouraging. On behalf of my committee, the Research committee and the National Society itself, we wish to say Thank You.

Actually, the money turned over to research is of more benefit to us than we realize. If the commercial growers have a problem, that problem is going to find its way into our collections very quickly. It works something like this: Research works until they resolve a

problem, industry manufactures the cure, commercials immediately avail themselves of the product, presto, you are going to buy clean and improved stock.

May I acknowledge the following donations received this quarter:

First African Violet Society of

Hammond, Ind. ..... \$ 10.00

South Shore African Violet Society of

Long Island, N. Y. ..... 5.00

African Violet Society of York, Pa. ..... 5.00

African Violet Society of

Syracuse, N. Y. ..... 50.00

(A special THANK YOU to my own local club for their generous support)

African Violet Society of

Salt Lake City, Utah ..... 5.00

Triangle African Violet Society,

New York ..... 10.00

Water Wonderland African Violet

Society, Muskegon, Mich. ..... 10.00

Tri City African Violet Club,

Troy, Ohio ..... 5.00

Fort Worth African Violet Society,

Texas ..... 10.00

Town and Country African Violet

Society, Delaware, Ohio ..... 5.00

Utica African Violet Society,

Utica, N. Y. ..... 5.00

Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet

Society, St. Louis, Mo. ..... 25.00

Santa Clara Valley African Violet

Club, Vi-O-Letta, Calif. ..... 5.00

First African Violet Society of Austin,

Texas, Courtesy of Charles Day,

in lieu of speakers fee ..... 10.00

Abington Jr. Civic Club, Philadelphia,

Pa., Courtesy of Anne Tinari,

in lieu of speaker's fee ..... 25.00

Los Angeles African Violet Society,

California ..... 25.00

Phoenix African Violet Club,

Phoenix, Arizona ..... 5.00

Exchange Club of Frankford,

Philadelphia, Pa. ..... 25.00

Courtesy of Anne Tinari, in lieu

of speaker's fee ..... 25.00

Westbrook Garden Club, Westbrook,

Conn., Courtesy of Frank Burton,

in lieu of speaker's fee ..... 5.00

Rhode Island African Violet Society,

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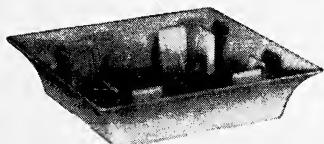
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Portland Chapter, A. V. S. of America, Oregon	15.00	Anne Tinari	25.00
Junior League Club of Philadelphia, Pa., Courtesy of Frank Tinari, in lieu of speaker's fee	25.00	African Violet Society of Canton, Ohio	5.00
Garden Club of Marion Civic Associa- tion, Philadelphia, Pa., Courtesy of Anne Tinari, in lieu of speaker's fee	25.00	Crosstown African Violet Club, Madison, Wisconsin, In memory of Mr. David Buchta of Racine Wisc.	3.00
Mrs. Alice Robbie, Providence, Rhode Island	25.00	Hi Hopes African Violet Club, Madison, Wisc., In loving memory of Mr. David Buchta, Racine, Wisc.	5.00
Longview African Violet Club, Longview, Wash.	1.00	Special recognition must be given to Anne and Frank Tinari. There has been \$140.00 turned in to this fund during this last quarter period alone for lectures and talks given to various clubs. The Tinari's have turned over their entire fees to Boyce Edens Fund, not even taking out expenses. What wonderful people you are!	
First African Violet Society of Dallas, Texas	5.00		
African Violet Society of Philadelphia, Pa., Courtesy of Anne Tinari, in lieu of speaker's fee	10.00		
Mrs. Ruth K. Millikan, Dallas, Texas	15.00		
Copper City African Violet Society, Rome, N. Y.	5.00		
Town and Country African Violet Society, Dayton, Ohio	25.00	A society for the prevention of cruelty to plants is badly needed to control abuse by su- permarkets of living plants other than vegeta- bles. Before buying any plant, always rap it out of the pot to see if there are any live roots.—Victor H. Ries.	
Bakersfield African Violet Society,	5.00		

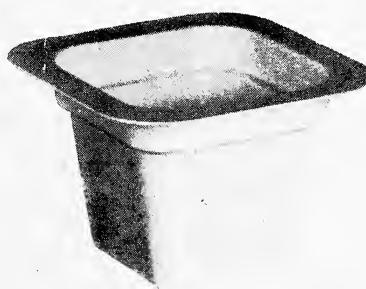
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# PRITCHARD GROUND MEALY BUG SERIOUS THREAT TO VIOLETS

Dr. Robert Snetsinger  
Department of Entomology  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, Pa.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Boyce Edens Fund provides money for carrying on this research work. Frank Tinari is chairman of the Research Committee)

Research on the Pritchard mealybug was initiated the past December. The first phase of the investigation has been to determine the magnitude of the problem. It is now apparent that Pritchard mealybug is widely established in the African violet industry. It has been collected from Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey, Wisconsin and California.

In California this insect is known to occur on a number of hosts; however, in the eastern United States, so far, the Pritchard mealybug has been only collected on African violets. It appears very likely, unless control methods

are developed, this pest will become very serious on African Violets.

The second phase of the investigation is concerned with rearing the Pritchard mealybug in order to later develop control methods best suited to the crop. A considerable number of attempts have been made to rear individual mealybugs on excised portions of African Violets. At present a completely satisfactory rearing method has not been developed. However, a number of interesting observations have been made. Pritchard mealybugs can survive for two or more months in damp soil in which only broken roots and debris from African Violet growing remain. Also nematodes, springtail, certain soil mites, collembola, and other soil pests are usually present when the Pritchard mealybug is present. The female mealybug gives birth to living young, rather than laying eggs. These young are often grouped about the larger mother for some time following birth. The length of a generation of this insect is rather extended. These and other observations indicate that control of Pritchard mealybug will be closely tied-in with improved sanitation practices.

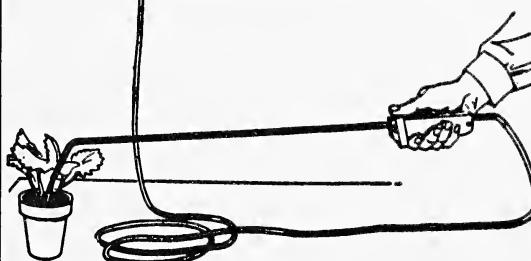
The third phase—that of developing chemical control of the Pritchard mealybug—will get under way within the next few weeks.

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---

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**(Subscription to the African Violet Magazine is included in membership dues)**

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## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

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A gift card (you may enclose your own) will be sent to the recipient of your fine gift.

## MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to Knoxville. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

# ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 7, 1965

The annual Board of Directors' meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Incorporated was called to order at 10:00 a. m. April 7, 1965 by the President, Mr. Frank A. Burton in the Embassy Parlor of the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Winfred Albright, Treasurer, led the group in prayer.

In the absence of the Secretary, Mrs. William J. Krogman was asked to serve as Secretary Pro Tem.

Roll call showed the following members of the Board of Directors and the Parliamentarian, Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson, present:

President	Mr. Frank Burton	Present
First Vice-President	Mrs. Joseph Gray	Present
Second Vice-President	Mrs. W. F. Anderson	Present
Secretary	Mrs. John Landaker	
Treasurer	Mr. Winfred Albright	Present
Past-President	Mrs. Jack Yakie	Absent
Director	Mr. Frank Tinari	Present
Director	Mr. E. H. Dixon	Present
Director	Mr. Robert Merilees	Absent
Director	Mrs. J. W. Hoffman	Absent
Director	Mr. Eugene L. Thompson	Present
Director	Mrs. Fred E. Travis	Absent
Director	Mrs. Sara Cabbage	Absent
Director	Mrs. J. Addison MacLean	Present
Director	Mrs. E. Pearle Turner	Present
Director	Mrs. William J. Krogman	Present
Director	Mrs. C. R. Ballard	Present
Director	Mr. Paul R. Younger	Present
Director	Miss Edith Peterson	Absent
Director	Mr. Richard T. Meyers	Present
Director	Mrs. Grace Arndt	Absent

## Chairmen of Standing Committees:

Affiliated Chapters	Mrs. Robert Hamilton	Present
Awards	Mrs. G. P. McGraw	Present
Boyce Edens Research Fund	Mrs. Harold Rienhardt	Present
Commercial Activities	Mr. Albert Buell	Present
Commercial Sales & Exhibits	Mrs. J. R. Millikan	Present
Convention Program	Mrs. Robert Slocomb	Present
Convention Time & Place	Mrs. Harold Baker	Present
Finance	Mr. E. H. Dixon	Present
Library	Mrs. W. F. Anderson	Present
Nominating	Miss Edith Peterson	Absent
Membership Promotion	Mr. Charles C. Day	Present
Plant Registration	Mrs. Fred Tretter	Present
Research	Mr. Frank Tinari	Present
Shows & Judges	Mrs. James B. Carey	Present

## Also present, by invitation were:

Mrs. James Morgan, Convention Chairman for Miami, Fla.
Mrs. Glen B. Hudson
Mrs. Grace Foote, Editor
Mrs. Clarice Bell, Business Office Manager

A motion was made by Mr. Albert Buell to extend an invitation and to welcome the Nominees to sit in on Board meetings, having voices but no votes until they assume office, and to continue this procedure at Board meetings in the future. Motion seconded and carried.

A congratulatory telegram from Mrs. Jack Yakie, immediate Past President, was read,--as was a letter from Miss Edith Peterson, who was planning for a European Tour. (A \$15.00 check was enclosed for a coffee break for the Board Members.)

The President appointed the following committee to approve the minutes of the 1965 Board Meeting:--Mrs. W. F. Anderson, Mr. E. H. Dixon and Mr. Charles Day, Chairman. Rescenses for meals were set as follows:

Lunch 12:30 to 2:00 Dinner 6:00 to 7:30

President Burton reported on his activities during the year and stressed the need for membership promotion by Board members, Chapters and individuals.

Mrs. Dorothy Gray, First Vice-President reported on her innumerable activities in promoting A. V. S. A. in American and Canadian Violet Groups, Garden Clubs, Flower Shows, etc. Since she has so vastly broadened her horizons in the field of promotion, she has asked Mrs. Julius Marshall of Detroit to serve with Mr. Day as Membership Director for Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky.

The Treasurer, Mr. Winfred Albright supplied copies of Receipts and Disbursements for the period from April 11, 1964 to March 26, 1965 to all members of the Board. The treasurer's books were in the hands of the auditors, Ernst &

Ernst, Certified Public Accountants, who were unable to complete the audit, due to the volume of Income Tax work at this time. Mr. Albright has made a separation of the Boyce Edens Research Fund and the Convention Funds from the regular funds. He is also studying the possibilities of separating the past dues received for Life Memberships and maintaining them in a separate account.

Mrs. Robert Hamilton, Affiliated Chapter Chairman reported:

10 Affiliated Councils  
380 Affiliated Chapters

The following Awards were sent to Affiliated groups during the year:

3 Silver Bowls  
75 Gold Rosettes  
75 Purple Rosettes  
Green Rosettes

Mrs. G. P. McGraw, Awards Chairman, reported the purchase of 2 Silver Bowls to be given as Directors' Awards, at a cost of \$37.15. Contributions were made by the Board members to cover the cost of the same.

Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, Chairman for the Boyce Edens Research Fund reported receipts of \$1362.00. (This is double the amount received during the previous year.)

Mr. Albert Buell, Commercial Activities Chairman, had no report as the Commercial Workshop had not been held at this time.

Convention Program Chairman, Mrs. Robert Slocumb, reported that everything was in order for this year's Convention Program and asked that one of her Committee members (in addition to the Convention Chairman) be a resident of the city in which the Convention is being held.

Convention Time and Place Chairman, Mrs. Harold Baker reported on the facilities that would be available to us at Miami. She explained that hotels with excellent ratings often want our Convention Shows to be set up in very un-attractive basement rooms. The AMERICANA HOTEL in Miami, however is First Class in all respects.

Finance Chairman, Mr. E. H. Dixon gave a condensed unaudited Financial report. After audit, the financial report will be published in the Society magazine. Our 1964 expenditures were considerably less than anticipated in our 1964 Budget.

Library Chairman, Mrs. W. F. Anderson reported that Mrs. Bell had mailed 229 Programs and that 64 reservations had been made for future mailings. The Library Committee is working on new slide programs and will review older ones to eliminate those that have been shop-worn, faded, over-exposed, poorly developed, or where the quality of film used was of poorer quality than that which is on the market at the present time. This revision will cut down the number of slide programs available, but will make those that are retained of better quality.

Promotion Committee Chairman, Mr. Charles Day reported on the progress made by his committee and other individuals which has resulted in more than 2,000 members in less than a year. The co-operation of everyone is appreciated.

The time being 12:45, the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

#### Wednesday Afternoon Meeting

The afternoon meeting was called to order by the president at 2:15. Roll Call showed the same members present. Mr. Gus Becker, whose firm is printing our magazine, also attended part time. (By invitation of our president.)

The report of the Nominating Committee was given by Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, -- in the absence of Miss Edith Peterson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The nominees for office are as follows:

##### President

Mr. Frank A. Burton  
Old Saybrook, Conn.

##### First Vice-Pres.

Mrs. Dorothy Gray  
East Detroit, Mich.

##### Second Vice-Pres.

Mrs. W. F. Anderson  
St. Louis, Mo.

##### Secretary

Mrs. William J. Krogman  
Brookfield, Wis.

##### Treasurer

Mr. Winfred Albright  
Kansas City, Mo.

##### Directors

Mrs. Percy Crane  
Sharon, Mass.

Mr. Dale Eyerdon  
Medina, Ohio

Mrs. C. Holmes Harris  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Mrs. James P. Morgan  
Hallandale, Fla.

Mrs. Earl Sponenburgh  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Plant Registration Chairman, Mrs. Fred Tretter reported that 73 new registrations have been made, plus 52 name reservations. Work on the new supplement to the Master Variety List is well under way. Any corrections of errors in the Master Variety listings will be appreciated by Mrs. Tretter.

Show & Judges Chairman, Mrs. James B. Carey reported that 301 Judges' Certificates had been issued during the past year, including 45 Lifetime Judges Certificates. Twenty four schools were held, which included all general areas of the United States.

Mr. Frank Tinari, Chairman of the Research Committee, reported on the progress made by Dr. Sheldon Reed on crosses of various types of violets and also on the project being carried on at the Pennsylvania State University under the direction of Dr. Robert Snetsinger in the battle against the Pritchard Ground Mealy-bug.

#### STANDING RULES:

Mrs. Carey recommended the following changes be made in the Rules for Shows and Judges:

Lifetime Judges  
Section X Shows and Judges

- H. 1. Strike out the word "consecutive."
- H. 3. Add "At least 3 of these shows must be judged by panels."
- H. 6. Strike out the last word "expiration" and substitute the words "the new certificate."
- H. 7. a. Strike out the second sentence and substitute "Lifetime Judges shall mail the answers to the A. V. S. A. Chairman of Shows and Judges by December 1st of the same year."

Sec. X E. 8. Scale of Points for Judging Plants in Unusual, Decorative Containers (Anything other than a Common Flower Pot)

Leaf Pattern and Form	25 points
Floriferousness	20 points
Condition	15 points
Relation to Container	15 points (Color combination, size & texture)
Size of Bloom	15 points
Color of Bloom	10 points
Total	100 points

Mrs. Carey moved these rules be adopted.  
Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Carey moved that the following changes be made:

Sec. III Convention

- D. Add only A. V. S. A. members in good standing are eligible to exhibit in Convention Shows.

Sec. II

- E. 6. Change to these plants are not eligible for any other Special Awards, except blue ribbons which will be counted toward Sweepstakes.

Sec. I Affiliated Organizations

- C. 3. Strike out the words "State Societies or Councils do not receive magazines."

## ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, April 10, 1965

The annual session of the Board of Directors' of the African Violet Society of America, Incorporated was called to order by the president, Mr. Frank A. Burton in the Maryland Room of the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland at 1:00 P. M. on Saturday, April 10, 1965.

President Burton introduced the new Board Members: Mrs. Percy Crane, Mrs. James P. Morgan, Mrs. Earl Sponenburgh, Mr. Dale Eyerdom, Mr. Jimmy Watson, Mrs. Glen B. Hudson and Mrs. C. Holmes Harris.

Response to Roll Call was as follows:

This motion was seconded and carried.

The motion was made by Mrs. MacLean that the Board approve the payment of the expenses of the Editor, Office Manager and Parliamentarian to this Convention and also to the next Convention. Seconded and carried.

Motion made by Mr. Winfred Albright that we affiliate with The American Horticultural Society as a National Society Member. Motion seconded and carried.

### RE-PRINT PERMISSION

Motion made by Mrs. Anderson to change Standing Rules

Sec. IX Publications

- E. 3. Strike out the words "Executive Committee" and substitute the "President" and add "except by Commercial Members of the A. V. S. A. providing that a credit by-line for all reprinted materials be given to the A. V. S. A."

Motion made by Mr. Albright to rent a Safety Deposit Box at Knoxville, in the name of the A. V. S. A., with privilege of access to the same by the office manager and one member of the Board, appointed by the president. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Hamilton to re-new our \$10,000 Bond, covering all persons handling society funds, for a period of three years. (This bond to be procured by Mr. Dixon.) Motion seconded and carried.

Mrs. Turner made the motion to change Standing Rules

Sec. II Awards

- C. 4. Strike out the words "guard or pin and".

Seconded and carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Anderson that Mrs. Turner be authorized to order Life Membership Pins from the jeweler in the name of the A. V. S. A. upon receipt of 10 orders by "Paid Life Members wishing to purchase the same. Seconded and Carried.

Motion made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Mrs. William J. Krogman  
Secretary Pro tem

President	Mr. Frank A. Burton	Present
First Vice-President	Mrs. Dorothy Gray	Present
Second Vice-President	Mrs. W. F. Anderson	Present
Secretary	Mrs. William J. Krogman	Present
Treasurer	Mr. Winfred Albright	Present
Past President	Mrs. Jack Yakie	Absent

Directors		
Mrs. J. W. Hoffman		Absent
Mr. Eugene L. Thompson	Present	
Mr. Richard T. Meyers	Present	
Mrs. J. Addison MacLean	Present	
Mrs. Fred E. Travis		Absent
Mrs. C. R. Ballard	Present	
Mrs. E. Pearle Turner		Absent
Miss Edith Peterson		Absent
Mr. Paul R. Younger	Present	
Mr. Jimmy Watson	Present	
Mrs. Percy Crane	Present	
Mrs. James P. Morgan	Present	
Mr. Dale Eyerdam	Present	
Mrs. C. Holmes Harris	Present	
Mrs. Earl Sponenburgh	Present	

Chairmen of Standing Committees:

Affiliated Chapters		
Mrs. Robert Hamilton	Present	
Awards		
Mrs. Glen B. Hudson	Present	
Boyce Edems Research Fund		
Mrs. Harold Rienhardt	Present	
Commercial Activities		
Mr. Albert Buell	Present	
Commercial Sales and Exhibits		
Mrs. J. R. Millikan	Present	
Convention Program		
Mrs. Robert Slocumb		Absent
Convention Time & Place		
Mrs. Harold Baker	Present	
Finance		
Mr. E. H. Dixon	Present	
Library		
Mrs. W. F. Anderson	Present	
Membership Promotion		
Mr. Charles Day	Present	
Nominating		
Miss Edith Peterson		Absent
Plant Registration		
Mrs. Fred Tretter	Present	
Research		
Mr. Frank Tinari	Present	
Shows and Judges		
Mrs. James B. Carey	Present	

Our Parliamentarian, Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson was Present as were: Mrs. Grace Foote, Editor; Mrs. Wade C. Bell, Office Manager and Mrs. Edward Nelson, Advertising Manager.

The following proposed amendments to the By-Laws were approved by the Board to be submitted for vote by the members at the next annual meeting:

Art. III. Affiliations and Charters

Sec. 2. To be changed by striking this section and substituting in lieu thereof, the following:  
Groups of members and / or societies in one or more states may affiliate as Councils, State Societies or Regional Group Societies upon payment of the fee set for such affiliation and shall be entitled to receive the Green, Gold and Purple

Awards, Library Service and a Silver Sweepstakes Bowl.

Art. V. Officers and their Duties

Sec. 1. a. Amend by inserting the words "appoint committee Chairmen", after the word "required".

The following proposed changes to our STANDING RULES were approved:

Sec. I. Affiliated Organizations

A. 2. Strike out the existing section and substitute--"State Societies, Councils of Affiliated Chapters and Judges Councils desiring to affiliate will send \$15.00 with application blanks to the Society office." Motion by Mrs. James Carey. Seconded and carried.

B. 1. Change the word "society" to plural--"societies"; and also the word "council" to plural--"councils". Motion by Mrs. Hamilton. Seconded and carried.

Sec. VI. Memberships

B. 4. Dual Membership: an optional membership for husband and wife--\$2.00 in addition to any other membership fee. Motion by Mrs. Anderson Seconded and carried.

Sec. III. Convention

E. Commercial members are entitled to badges of admission to convention shows (limit of four) for members of their family or employees. Such attendants at convention will pay regular fees to any functions of their choice. Motion made by Mrs. Carey. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Edward Nelson, advertising manager, gave her report and asked about advertising rates or discounts for firms whose advertising is handled through advertising agencies. The Board agreed that all advertising rates remain at the present level and that the policy of "Cash with Copy" prevail, as in the past.

Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Foote were asked to leave the meeting for a short time.

Motion made by Mrs. MacLean to retain the services of Mrs. Foote as our editor for the coming year. Seconded and carried.

Motion made by Mr. Thompson to retain the services of Mrs. Bell as our Business Office Manager for the coming year. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Foote were asked to return to the meeting.

Mrs. Carey moved that the Executive Committee and the Finance Chairman be authorized to acquire a new addressograph machine and necessary accessories. (This is necessary as the present equipment is obsolete and additional office help would be required if it were not replaced.) The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Dixon moved that the budget proposed by the Finance Committee for the fiscal year Mar. 1, 1965 to Feb. 28, 1966 be approved and adopted. Motion seconded and carried.

Mr. Dixon moved that current expenses not

covered by current revenue, be covered by the use of monies collected for the Fiscal year March 1, 1966 to February 28, 1967. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Carey moved that the "Resolutions Committee", Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Watson, send Thank You letters to all clubs who have worked to put on the Convention at Baltimore.

Mrs. Anderson moved that we make provision to advertise the next year's African Violet Calendar as much as possible and work on promotion of a third African Violet Calendar.

Mrs. Harris moved that "Life Membership Certificates" be printed. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Harold Baker reported on Convention invitations and moved that we accept the invitation of the Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs and hold our Convention in Milwaukee in 1970. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Millikan reported that 15 Commercial Sales spaces were rented and that 13 Commercial Members staged Exhibits at the Baltimore Con-

vention. She further stated that Mrs. Rienhardt and Mrs. Carey will assist her with the Commercial department in future Convention Shows.

Mrs. Carey thanked the Directors for the honor of the Distinguished Service Award which was presented to her at the Friday Night Banquet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25.

Mrs. William J. Krogman  
Secretary

Signatures of Committee approving these minutes:

Mrs. W. F. Anderson

Mr. E. H. Dixon

Mr. Charles Day, Chairman

## 19th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The 19th annual business meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Incorporated was held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, April 10, 1965.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Frank Burton.

Mrs. Hazel Sherwood made the motion that the call to the meeting be approved. Seconded and carried.

Mr. Burton asked that the minutes of last year's meeting, which were published in the magazine, be approved. The motion was made by Mrs. Fred Tretter. Seconded and carried.

The president reported on progress and promotion.

Mr. Albright gave a condensed, tentative financial report and stated that the Treasurer's books were being audited by Ernst & Ernst, Certified Public Accountants. Audited treasurer's report will appear in the September magazine.

Mr. Eugene Thompson, Baltimore Convention Chairman reported on attendance:

618 Registered Convention Members  
157 Non-members visiting the Show  
775 Total attendance.

In the absence of Miss Edith Peterson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. Harold Rienhardt presented the following names in nomination for the offices listed:

President  
Mr. Frank A. Burton  
Old Saybrook, Conn.

First Vice-Pres.  
Mrs. Dorothy Gray  
East Detroit, Mich.

Second Vice-Pres.  
Mrs. W. F. Anderson  
St. Louis, Mo.

Secretary  
Mrs. William J. Krogman  
Brookfield, Wis.

Treasurer  
Mr. Winfred Albright  
Kansas City, Mo.

Directors  
Mrs. Percy Crane  
Sharon, Mass.

Mr. Dale Eyerdom  
Medina, Ohio

Mrs. C. Holmes Harris  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Mrs. James P. Morgan  
Hallandale, Fla.

Mrs. Earl Sponenburgh  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mrs. Stephen Kanelia moved that nominations be closed. Seconded. Carried.

Following the motion made by Mr. Thompson, the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot, electing the slate as presented.

The motion was made by Mrs. James B. Carey to adopt the proposed By-Laws changes which appeared in the December 1964 issue of the African Violet magazine:

Amend by adding a new section to Article III, to be known as

Sec. 3. JUDGES' COUNCILS: Groups of judges from one or more states, districts, or areas may affiliate as Judges' Councils upon payment of the fee set for such affiliation and in return they shall be entitled to the Green, Gold and Purple Rosettes Awards; Library Service, and a State or Council Silver Sweepstakes Bowl.

Art. II

Sec. 1. (Re Dual Membership)

a. Add: "or a dual membership for husband and wife. In case of dual membership, both husband and wife will receive membership cards and may be judges, but only one magazine will be furnished."

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Adeline E. Krogman  
Secretary Pro Tem

COMMITTEE APPROVING MINUTES:

The motion was seconded and carried.

The question was raised about the possibilities of Junior memberships. The Convention Committee was asked to consider avoiding "overlapping" of workshops. A rising vote of thanks was given to Mr. Burton for his efforts in behalf of the African Violet Society of America in the past.

Mrs. W. F. Anderson

Mr. E. H. Dixon

Mr. Charles Day, Chairman

## WELCOME TO MIAMI BEACH

The African Violet Clubs of Florida invite you to join us for the annual convention of the African Violet Society of America, and a 'Season in the Sun' at the Americana Hotel, Bal Harbour, on April 14, 15, 16, 1966.

Convention Chairman: Mrs. James Morgan

Co-Chairman: Mrs. John D. Chestnut

Publicity Chairman: H. H. (Dick) Richardson  
3665 S. W. 16th Terrace  
Miami, Fla.

Co-Chairman: David Rogers

## ADVERTISING RATES

In

### THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Full Page	-----	\$108.00
One-Half Page		
1 x 9 inches	-----	54.00
2 x 4 1/2 inches	-----	54.00
One-Fourth Page		
1 x 4 1/2 inches	-----	27.00
2 x 2 1/4 inches	-----	27.00
One inch	-----	6.00

(A one inch Ad is the minimum, but your ad in 2 inches or more will make it more readable and effective.)

NOTE: Ads from one inch to 18 inches will let readers of the African Violet Magazine know where they can obtain their African violets and their supplies. (Cash or check must accompany ad)

# New Varieties - - Plant Editor Stages Program

*Mrs. John C. Wittner*  
6499 N. Oxford Ave., Chicago 60631

When asked to give a program on "newest varieties" in Baltimore at the National convention my immediate reaction was, "Impossible"! Where would I get material? After sleeping on the idea, I decided to write to all the leading originators, requesting colored slides of their newest varieties. The response was most encouraging and all were most co-operative. I wish to thank all you wonderful people for your help especially those getting ready to exhibit at the convention.

The following are slides presented on the newest variety program at the convention:

## Champion's:

Festivity, huge dbl. bright red, variegated foliage.  
Surfside, huge dbl. med. blue, variegated foliage.

## Fischer's:

Autumn Haze, large lt. med. blue, variegated foliage.  
Heartaches, frilled red, color of atomic blaze.  
Intriguing, frilled red dbl.  
Mr. Midnight, huge 3" dark blue stars, long lasting.  
S11, white with blue frilled edges.  
#2FP, huge dbl. peony type, white with blue center.

## Frathel's:

Wonderful You, pink with rose center.  
Love Me, crested white with lav. blue fr. petals.  
Cream Crest, dbl. lavender shaded, variegated foliage.  
Dimpled Darling, dbl. lt. pink with rose center, variegated foliage.  
Blue Beauty, dbl. powder blue, deeper blue frilled edges.  
High Stepper, dbl. pink, white shirred edges.  
Purple Imp, deep purple, lg. yellow eye, variegated foliage.  
Clean Snow, white square blooms that stay on.

## Granger's:

Black Raven, dbl. frilled purple.  
Black Beauty, dbl. frilled purple.  
Breath O Spring, dbl. frilled white fused with blue.  
Fire N Ice, huge red star with wide frilled white edges.  
Corona, huge blue star with wide frilled white edges.  
Littlest Sweetheart, huge pink star with wide frilled white edges.  
Soft Tint, huge pink, darker pink frilled edges.

## Lyon's:

Red Honey, giant dbl. fuschia red, waxy foliage.  
White Perfection, whitest full double.  
Master Blue, frilled blue with white edge that holds through heat.  
Purple Choice, dbl. purple on shapely plant.  
Pompom, semi-dbl. rich reddish lavender.  
Magnifica, dbl. fuschia geneva, profuse.

## Tinari's:

Lilian Jarrett, coral dbl. flecked foliage, not new but a must.  
Funny Face, fuschia red with white frilled edges.  
Fiesta Flame, dbl. flame colored geneva.  
Bicolor Flirt, two-toned pink geneva.  
Bicolor Beam, two-toned lavender geneva.  
Roman Rose, fuschia dbl. geneva.  
Lady Wilson, dbl. powder geneva.  
Flash Supreme, huge dbl. fuschia, supreme foliage.

## Richter's:

Knockout  
Tippacanoe  
Blackfoot  
Finery  
Devil's Gold  
Snappy  
Smiles  
Pearly Shells

# Baltimore Long To Be Remembered - Each Day Is Filled With Activity

By Helen Van Zele  
Lemon Grove, California

No greater tranquillity can be experienced than that which descends upon one when, after entering the door of the plane, exchanging greetings with the determinedly smiling stewardess, sinking into one's seat, clasping the seat belt, hearing the plane's closing bang, watching the steps being rolled away, waving the last good-bye to the Near and Dear who have come to see you off, which of course they can't see, and knowing that AT LAST you are on your way. Nothing more can be done. All the directives to the left-at-home family have been given; written . . . . No milk on Wednesday . . . . take Poochie for his clip on Friday . . . . if Purri won't eat, try chicken, and verbally; "Please water THOSE but don't, for heaven's sake, touch THAT one" Nothing now to do but to settle back and enjoy yourself; you are on your way to the CONVENTION!

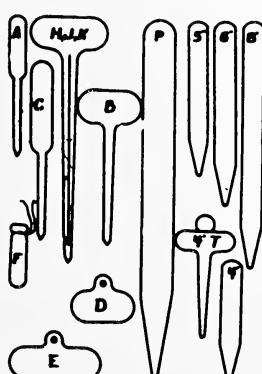
On the first day of the Convention there is nothing particular to do — members drift aimlessly about wondering whether to stay down in the lobby or go back upstairs and unpack. We get glimpses now and then of our busy President, Mr. Frank Burton, with the ubiquitous pipe, greeting people, holding conferences, rushing here and there, oiling the

wheels of the Convention.

But what intrigues us the most on this first day were the BOXES! Some enormous ones, and some just large — these are the plants going to the Show? We eye them speculatively and wish we could see inside. There is a solid parade of Boxes going up the sweeping marble staircase and disappear-

## LIFETIME

Thick, rigid plastic plant markers  
Easily marked with soft lead pencils  
May be cleaned and used over and over again  
Attractively designed  
Use outdoors or indoors  
A marker or tag for every purpose  
All styles made in pure white plastic  
(Style B-4 — 4" T—also made in spring green)



### SIZES AND STYLES

A—4½" vertical stake  
B—2" x 5" tee stake  
B4—4" T stake, removable tab  
C—6" vertical stake  
D—1" x 2" horizontal tie-on tag  
E—1" x 3" horizontal tie-on tag  
F—½" x 2" notched tie-on tag  
H—2½" x 8" tee stake  
J—3" x 12" tee stake  
K—4½" x 18" tee stake  
P—1" x 12" vertical stake

## THRIFTEE

Thin flexible plastic plant markers  
Easily marked with soft lead pencils  
May be cleaned for reuse  
Clear attractive colors for every purpose  
Won't curl, rot, or decay  
Choice of Rose Pink, white, spring green, gay yellow, rich red, brilliant orange or sky blue  
(We will ship green if no color is given)

### LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC MARKERS

Style	Postpaid	Quantity	Prices
	50	100	500
A		\$1.25	\$ 5.50
B	\$2.00	2.75	11.00
B4		1.50	6.00
C	1.50	2.25	10.00
D	1.35	2.00	9.00
E	1.60	2.40	10.50
F		1.25	5.00
H	3.00	5.00	21.00
J	5.00	9.00	37.50
K	8.00	15.00	67.50
P	4.00	7.00	26.00

Tie-On Copper Wires Included with D, E, and F.

### THRIFTEE FLEXIBLE COLORED LABELS

SIZE	100	125	250	500	1000
7/16" x 3" vertical marker			\$1.00	\$1.60	\$2.50
5/8" x 4" vertical marker		\$1.00	1.55	2.50	3.90
5/8" x 5" vertical marker	\$1.00		2.30	3.65	4.80
5/8" x 6" vertical marker	1.15		2.55	4.10	5.40
5/8" x 8" vertical marker	1.45		3.40	5.40	7.20

See Information Above Relative to Colors

TRIAL ASSORTMENTS: No. 1—50 LIFETIME markers, 10 each of A, C, D, and F and 5 each of B and H—\$1.00 postpaid.

No. 2—125 THRIFTEE markers, assorted sizes—\$1.00 postpaid.

AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS SPECIALS: 75 Style A, \$1.00; 1,000 Style A, \$7.95 ppd.

Ask for free complete folder showing other styles and types of markers.

DEALERS: Write for wholesale prices, using your letterhead or other identification.

On orders over \$2.00, add 5% if shipped West of Denver.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

Dept. M53

1126 ARTHUR ST.

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

54401

ing into the room above and we envy the lucky people at the door who are privileged to help place the precious plants. Will Thursday night never come!

There has been a tour to Annapolis arranged but later many have spoken unenthusiastically of chilly drizzles and feet weary from cobblestones so we were glad we just stayed and watched BOXES.

Registration is at 6:00 P.M. and we are given our name plates. They give us a feeling of security. We now know to whom we are speaking and that the experience we had earlier in the day will not be repeated. While sitting watching BOXES, a nice gentleman sat across from us and we engaged him in conversation about African Violets. He listened intently for awhile and then asked could we please talk about football and did Joan (an ardent Alabama fan!) think Namath's knee would be all right, — following that up with an invitation for the evening. We politely declined, saying every minute would be filled. So, children, do not talk to strangers until they wear their name plates!

Early Thursday morning Mrs. Ruth Carey and Mrs. Neva Anderson conducted Refresher and Beginner's Judging Schools.

Later, we enjoyed Lyndon Lyon's lecture on "Kissing Cousins", especially since we had just purchased his cunning little Sinningia, "Doll Baby".

Mr. Arthur Trimble of Eastman Kodak Company gave a splendid program; lecture and slides, "Picture Your Flowers in Color". We would like to thank Mr. Trimble for giving his time, patience, and ever ready advice to all the amateur photographers who asked for help Friday morning.

The highlight of Thursday's Dinner Meeting was Helen Van Pelt Wilson's talk on "My Twelve Joys of Gardening".

Friday was a day of ACTIVITY — so many Workshops — each of which we'd like to attend, but unless like "All Gaul", we could divide ourselves "into three parts", we are forced to choose one and regret the others.

And, speaking of Activity, I nominate for an "Activity Sweepstake Award" that dynamo of energy — Grace Foote. A group of people all listening to the one who is speaking, Grace Foote. A SWISH past you in the hall — Grace Foote, conducting her own Workshop "Let the Editor Speak" with snap and precision, Grace Foote; and who between 12:30 and 4:30 A.M. is right up with the photographers interviewing owners of the prize winning plants and the widest awake of all? Naturally, Grace

Foote! I asked her how her husband bore up, being married to a Texas Tornado, but she was off and gone before I caught her answer. And if she deletes a word of this, we are Pen Pals no longer!

For "Activity Award Opposite Sex" (as we have it in the Cat Fancy) I would nominate Charles Day. He was here, there and everywhere — greeting newcomers, making them feel welcome and wanted, sitting in for at least a few minutes at all the Workshops, filling in on the Podium when necessary, his feet barely able to keep up with his dancing brown eyes!

To most of us, hybridizers, commercial growers and authors are just names on brightly colored catalogues and book jackets, so it was an honor and a pleasure to meet in person Helen Van Pelt Wilson who is petite and charming; that nice couple with the euphonious name, Lyndon Lyon — she of the sweet smile, and he as interested in Joan's slides as we are in his violets; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tinari, she with the most striking midnight eyes we've ever seen and he with an enchanting sense of humor; that nice young couple, the Dale Eyerdom's, who are in charge of Granger Gardens; Paul Rocklemann of Fischer's who so patiently explained any question asked him, Mr. and Mrs. Buell who displayed the largest and showiest plants of all, and many others — all real People — not just names!

The Big Moment of the convention is when the doors at the top of the stair case are thrown open and we are allowed to see The Plants! Beautiful new ones, beautiful old ones, fascinating arrangements, and there in the center, surrounded by plaques, rosettes, and silver awards, Delft Imperial, the Queen!

The plaque for the Best New Introduction in the Commercial Division was awarded to Granger Gardens for "Prom Queen" though many others seemed to me just as lovely; Champion's "Surfside", the flowers a medium blue and huge; Fischer's "Heart Aches" — a frilled red; Frathel's "Wonderful You", pink with rose centers; Granger's "Littlest Sweetheart", a bright pink; Lyon's "Magnifica", a profusely blooming fuchsia double; Tinari's "Bicolor Flirt", a single, pink bicolor with white edge, and many, many more.

In the Amateur Division there were 197 plants and 57 arrangements, and for the very first time we met up with, for heaven's sake, S. TONGWENSIS! We have never really believed there was one — that it existed only in Mrs. Carey's yellow book — but there it was, and very pretty, too. It, also, must have



**VIOLETS IN THE HEART OF MARYLAND** — The showroom of the Lord Baltimore hotel was so crowded during the National Show at the Baltimore convention that the photographer could snap people only because the people kept hiding the African violets.



read Mrs. Carey's book for it had produced a nice single crown and lots of pretty pale blue flowers just like she said it should. Sharing honors with it were S. Difficulis, S. Confusa and S. Ionantha! None of which we had ever seen before and believed existed only to make

the Judge's Test difficult and confusing! The news shall be passed up and down the West Coast! (Yes, Virginia, there *are* those plants!)

By the time we have seen all the plants, Amateur and Commercial, the wealth of color  
(Continued on Page 76)

# WHILE THERE'S A MOON OVER MIAMI YOU CAN BE A STAR IN MIAMI

as the winner of paid round-trip transportation from your home to the 1966 Convention in Miami. No box tops to send in, no used violets to trade-in — Just gather up an armful of new members—you don't even have to gift-wrap them!

All you have to do is follow the rules below — *starting right now*. The contest begins with this issue and ends March 1, 1966.

So maybe you don't win first — there're always runnerup spots. And the greatest reward of all — you've done a good deed for your Society!

## MEMBERSHIP CONTEST BLANK

..... \$4.00 Individual Membership	..... \$4.00 Affiliated Chapter Membership
..... \$13.33 Commercial Membership	..... \$20.00 Research Membership
..... \$85.00 Life Membership	

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

CONTESTANT'S NAME .....

CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

## CONTEST RULES

1. Membership must be NEW members.
2. Contestant's name and address must appear on all membership applications submitted in this special contest. While it is not mandatory that membership contest blank be used, all entries must be plainly marked MEMBERSHIP CONTEST.
3. Entries must be postmarked by midnight, March 1, 1966.
4. In event of a tie, earliest postmark will determine the winner.
5. All entries will be checked by Society office staff against current membership list.
6. Checks or money orders *must* accompany *all* membership applications.

7. All checks or money orders must be made payable to AVSA.
8. Points will be given as follows:
  - One point — \$4.00 Membership (New)
  - One Point — \$4.00 Affiliated Chapter (New)
  - Two Points — Commercial Membership (New)
  - Three Points — Research Membership (New)
  - Four Points — Life Membership
9. Winners will be listed in the June African Violet Magazine.
10. All entries are to be sent to:
 

Winfred E. Albright, Treasurer  
P. O. Box 1326  
Knoxville, Tennessee
11. Officers, directors and employees of AVSA and members of their families are not eligible to compete.

## PRIZES

**TOP AWARD** — Paid transportation for one to the Miami Convention — April 14, 15, 16, 1966 — Miami, Florida

**RUNNERUP AWARD** — \$10.00 in plants or supplies from any regular advertiser in the AV Magazine — Winner's selection

**FIVE OTHER AWARDS** — One-year paid membership in AVSA to be given to each of next five highest contestants

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Kills hard to get Mealy Bugs, Aphids, Spider Mite, White Fly and many other insects. No harm to bloom or foliage when used as directed. Won't stain fabrics or wallpaper. Harmless to children and pets. Pleasantly scented. The ideal insecticide. 5 oz. can 89c at your dealer or order direct.

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# MAN WALKS OFF WITH SIX AWARDS AT NATIONAL SHOW

By Mrs. Percy F. Crane, Mrs. Warren Churchill, Sharon, Mass. Mrs. Frank Barton, New Bedford, Mass.



**E. D. Wyke of Columbus, Ind.**

Although Mrs. Thomas B. McKneely of McLean, Va., won top award in the amateur show at the Baltimore convention of the African Violet Society and Mrs. Charles Dedera of St. Louis, Mo. took top honors in the arrangements class, a "mere" man walked off with six silver and cash awards as well as plaques and certificates.

He is E. D. Wyke of Columbus, Ind., who was the recipient of the following awards:

Granger's Garden Award of \$25 for his plant "Maisie Yakie"; Mrs. Nat Dilbert and Maisie Yakie Award, a \$10.00 gift certificate for the best plant of "Maisie Yakie;" Mrs. Ruth Milliken Award: A silver compote to the best variegated foliage plant in the Amateur Show, for his plant "Champion's Water Lily"; The Lyndon Lyon Award \$25 award to the best plant of "White Perfection;" Madison Gardens \$25 award to the best plant of "Atomic Gold"; Stim-U-Plant Laboratories Inc. Award, a plaque and \$25 for the best white plant in the show for his "White Perfection"; and The Directors' Award, a silver gift for the most blue ribbons — a total of 20 blue.

Wyke grows his lovely plants entirely under lights in his basement. He gets his stock from his mother's collection which is a large one. He selects the choice plants to be groomed, and grows for show only. He uses a combination of one Gro Lux and one warm white light or two warm white tubes. He believes each plant has its own light requirements. He treats each plant individually and moves them around under the lights until he finds the perfect light requirement of each.

The Silver Cup to the best registered named variety was awarded to "Delft Imperial," exhibited by Mrs. Thomas B. McKneely, McLean, Virginia. The plant measured about 22 inches across with lovely white edge blossoms and perfect leaf condition.

Mrs. McKneely stated that she grows her plants in her basement under fluorescent lights

and mixes her own soil. All her show plants are grown from her own leaf cuttings. She has over 90 different varieties without any duplications because of limited space. She runs cool white and day light fluorescent tubes in her fixtures. She incorporates fertilizers in her soil mix then does not fertilize for six months. After six months the plants are fed every two weeks.

Award of merit ribbons and \$15 for the second best registered named variety in the specimen classes 1 thru 32 was given to "Double Black Cherry" grown by Mrs. Stanley Skelton, Falls Church, Virginia.

This plant also received the Stim-U-Plant Laboratories Inc. award of a plaque and \$25. The plant measured approximately 28 inches across, had perfect symmetry. It had lush dark leaves and lovely blossoms held well above



**Mrs. Thomas B. McNeely with "Delft Imperial"**

the foliage and was a truly beautiful plant.

Mrs. Skelton has been raising plants for approximately 10 years, and receiving these awards was the highlight of her growing career. Her husband shares her hobby.

The honorable mention ribbon and \$10 for the third best registered named variety in Classes 1 thru 32 was awarded to "Height of Fashion," exhibited by Mrs. Estelle G. Crane, Sharon, Massachusetts. The plant had profuse double pink blossoms and dark shiny well formed leaf pattern.

Mrs. Crane grows her collection of African violets and other gesneriads as a hobby in a 50-foot greenhouse. Her lovely show plants are grown in a light porous soil mixture. She feeds every watering with a weak solution of fertilizer.

The McGraw Award, a silver award to the best plant of African Violet species, was received by Mrs. Glen B. Hudson of Westfield New Jersey for her plant "S. Intermedia."

Mrs. Hudson is a consistent "Blue Ribbon" winner, having won a total of 509 blue ribbons since 1955,

She has also won four national Awards in past conventions.

The Indianapolis African Violet Club Award of \$25 for the best specimen plant of Wilson's "Coon Valley" was awarded Mrs. Claire Poulette, Kempton, Pennsylvania. This plant also won the Stim-U-Plant Laboratories,



**Mrs. Estelle Crane with "Height of Fashion"**



**Mrs. Claire Poulette with "Coon Valley"**

Inc. Award of a plaque and \$25.

Mrs. Poulette told us that this plant is about three years old. It won the Gold Rosette with two other plants at the Allentown, Pa. spring show. She kept it disbudded all fall and until eight weeks before the convention. The following is a quote of her method of growing.

"I mix my own soil in the bathtub because it seems the best place and use a whole can of Comet after it to clean the tub, naturally. My soil is very much like my grandmother used to cook, a little bit of this and a little bit of that. I throw in some peat moss, cow manure, phosphate rock, potash rock, limestone rock and when it smells good and feels good and I have it up to my elbows, that's my soil. I don't sterilize which is a crime. In the summertime when I see moths or flies coming in, then I start spraying to keep the bugs off. I think they grow good because I love them and talk to them.

"We have a big old farm house on 59 acres in Pennsylvania and we have a cellar kitchen. Pennsylvania Dutch families moved into the cellar kitchen in the summer because it is always nice and cool down there. That is where my plants are backed in beside an old slate sink that still has the attachment for the pump. I go down there every evening and talk to them."

## *Outstanding Members Get 1965 Awards*

Mrs. H. Harold (Dora) Baker of St. Paul, Minn., was awarded the 1965 honorary life membership for her long service with the African Violet Society as "a truly unsung heroine." In making the presentation at the convention banquet in Baltimore, Mrs. G. P. McGraw pointed out that "she has served the society for love and not for reward. A person of great strength and character, she took the job of treasurer during the most difficult period in the history of this society, and performed a truly remarkable job."

Mrs. James B. Carey of Knoxville, Tenn., described as a conscientious, diligent and far sighted leader for many years, was the recipient of the first certificate for distinguished service given by the National Society. "Her work with the Judges' Handbook alone would qualify her for any honorary award we could give her, but she has worked in many other important positions, serving as secretary and later as president, while continuing with her plans on the Judges' School and Show Procedure," Mrs. McGraw said. "Every successful organization should have a Guiding Spirit. Ruth Carey is our Guardian Angel."

Mrs. Joseph B. (Dorothy) Gray of East Detroit, Mich., received the 1965 Ruth Carey Award for her outstanding work in organizing and assisting in organizing African Violet clubs in Michigan and for the formation of the Michigan Area Council of African Violet Clubs. Mrs. Gray has held African violet clinics at numerous shows, judged shows in Michigan and Canada and has conducted judging schools for judges. "All credit is due her for having the first competitive African Violet show held in Detroit, Mich.," Mrs. McGraw said.

Frank and Anne Tinari of Bethayres, Pa., were awarded the Bronze Medal Certificate for their outstanding work in donating hundreds of plants to researchers and for stimulating interest in African violet research for many years.

One-year honorary memberships in the African Violet Society were presented to:

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Thompson of Baltimore, Maryland, for staging a most successful

convention;

E. H. Dixon of Mission, Kans., for his untiring work with the Society;

Mrs. John C. (Sonja) Cuneo of Tewsbury, Mass., for her work as club and show editor of the AVS magazine;

Mrs. Robert (Lizeta) Hamilton of Oradell, N. J., for her outstanding work with the affiliated chapters;

Charles Day of San Antonio, Texas, for organizing the new member promotion and for reversing the trend of declining new memberships;

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nichols of Nashville, Tenn., for their sizeable contribution of slides to the library;

Mrs. Edward A. Nelson of St Louis, Mo., for her outstanding work as advertising manager for the AVS magazine;

Mrs. Fred Tretter of St. Louis, Mo., for her devotion to the duties she has assumed on the Registration, the Master List Supplement and as a member of the nominating committee and the standing rules committee in 1964.

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## *Mrs. Pochurek Amazed At Society's Growth*

Mrs. Helen Pochurek of Mantua, Ohio, who was at the organizational meeting of the African Violet society of America and the first national flower show held in Atlanta, Ga., in 1946 recalls Boyce Edens' remark to the question: "How can you form a national society with so few people?" Mr. Edens said, "So what? It'll grow."

And AVSA has grown! And Mrs. Pochurek was skeptical, too. Mrs. Pochurek, at the Baltimore convention, said, "I never dreamed it would grow to this!"

"If exhibitors today could have seen the plants of those days, they wouldn't believe what they saw!" she explained. "Ionantha was 'Queen of the Show'. We thought having five top plants was great."

Mrs. Pochurek recalled that people stood outside the hall in Atlanta in long lines waiting for the African Violet show to be opened to the public.

The Pochureks were living in Cleveland, Ohio, at the time of the Atlanta show.

She questioned whether violet lovers today got the same thrill as those early violet growers did in growing violets.

"We were fortunate if we had one new violet come out each year," she said. "When my husband and I heard of a new violet, we'd drive as far as 500 miles away to get it."

# 180 Members Are Added

Did you know that 180 new members were added to the African Violet Society of America in the membership contest conducted by Charles Day and his New Member and Promotion committee?

Winner of the contest was Mrs. Louise Johnson of Hudson, P. Q., Canada. Mrs. Johnson signed up 37 new members to win first place, a paid round-trip to the convention.

Mrs. Frank S. Huebscher of Panama City, Fla., with 21 members was runner-up and received \$10 in plants or supplies from any regular advertiser in the African Violet Magazine.

Five other awards, one-year paid memberships in AVSA, were won by Clara L. Keeler of Portland, Oregon, with 19 members; Mrs. Gladys Perkins, of Largo, Fla., with 15 members; Mrs. Floyd Hammond of Denver, Colo., with six members; Mrs. Florence I. Brittain of Bellaire, Texas, with 4 members; and Mrs. O. G. Pierson of Fort Worth, Texas, with 4 members. Among Mrs. Brittain's new members was included one life member.

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# Quebec Woman Turns Hobby Into Business

*By Dorothy Eber*

**EDITOR'S NOTE**—Louise Johnson, winner of the membership contest, received a free trip to the Baltimore convention. Here is a brief article concerning Mrs. Johnson and her violets.



**DAZZLING AFRICAN VIOLETS** are among 400 gorgeous varieties grown by Louise Johnson, of Hudson Heights, Que. She keeps them on show in her living room. (Photo by Louis Jacques)

Peanut-butter jars make ideal plant containers and collapsible biscuit boxes are just the thing for shipping African violet leaves.

To Louise Johnson, these facts—and they are facts—are important. Especially when she does her weekly food shopping.

Mrs. Johnson, who has thousands of African violet plants in her home at Hudson Heights, Que., has turned a hobby into a paying proposition: she ships violet cuttings and leaves ready for planting to people all over Canada, according to Dorothy Eber writing in the Weekend Magazine, a supplement to 36 newspapers from Newfoundland to British Columbia.



**TRICKY WAY** of watering developed by Mrs. Johnson is used to measure exactly the right amount of water for the delicately-nurtured plants. An old nylon stocking is used as wick to draw water up into plastic container holding African violet. Mrs. Johnson found old peanut-butter jars ideal as water containers.

Mrs. Johnson insists that her violets are not a business.

"If they weren't a hobby and relaxation, they wouldn't be fun any more," she says.

She knows a lot about the tricky plants and how to grow them now, but she was a greenhorn when she started in 1949, the year of her marriage. She bought her first violet in Ottawa one Saturday morning at the Bytown market.

Soon after she got it home, it died. Eighteen months later, after the family had moved to Toronto and her daughter Cathy and twin sons Tommy and David had been born, a neighbor offered her some African violet cuttings. Challenged, she decided to try again.

At first her new charges refused to produce anything but luxuriant leaves, but at least they did not die, and finally a few flowers appeared. She discovered that African violets need a light soil, indirect sun and just the right amount of watering. By the time the family was posted to Brazil in 1955 (her husband Gerry is with the Aluminum Co. of Canada) she was good at coaxing the delicate

plants to bloom, and won prizes in a couple of Brazilian flower shows. She also took to growing orchids, and still has one or two. But she finds the violets more interesting.

Back in Canada in 1957, the family settled in Hudson Heights. And Louise Johnson soon had a living room full of African violet plants, and neighbors were dropping in for advice on how to care for their own ones. One day a friend caught without a present asked if she could buy one. "You know, Louise," she said, "You really should make something out of your violets."

Today Mrs. Johnson cultivates more than 400 varieties of African violets, and it takes her an average of two hours a day to care for all the plants, though she puts the time in during a couple of long stretches each week. An ingenious wick feeder method she has developed means her plants need very little watering.

The most dazzling blooms are put on display in the living room—and the family has become adept at fielding wisecracks about being crowded out of the house and home by the violets. "We're thinking of building an extension in the garden for me," says Gerry. The children, Cathy, now 13, Tommy and David, 12, and Peter, nine, say simply: "If you think we've got a lot of plants here, you should see the basement."

The basement is where Mrs. Johnson keeps the bulk of her stock, and does the parcelling and wrapping for her orders. She sends the leaves, stems wrapped in cotton batting covered with aluminum foil and insulated in polyethylene bags, to violet fanciers from Newfoundland to Prince Rupert, B.C. The cost is 75 cents per leaf for the latest hybrids, plus 50 cents handling charges. There is also a special assortment—12 leaves for \$2. As a precaution, she always sends two of each leaf ordered.

The packing and shipping method must be nearly perfect. Once an order sent to Vittoria, Ont., went to Victoria, B.C., and then to Victoria, Ont., before it finally arrived at its right designation. But the customer wrote to say the leaves arrived in good condition.

People all over the country write to Mrs. Johnson asking for advice about African violets. She also sends out a catalogue and a news letter. And in her neighborhood she is regarded as a consulting physician. When an African violet in the local post office began to droop, the postmaster sent her a note saying: "How about a new plant?" But Mrs. Johnson saw no need for this.

She simply gave the plant some expert attention and returned it in gorgeous health.

# Convention Speaker Gives Hints on Photography

African violet enthusiasts heard Arthur P. Trimble of the Eastman Kodak company of Rochester, N. Y., tell them how to "picture their flowers in color" at the Baltimore convention as he gave an informative color slide presentation designed to show the ease with which they could make beautiful color pictures of their flowers and gardens.

Mr. Trimble spent five years in various photographic assignments with the U. S. Air Force and his work at the Eastman Kodak company in the photofinishing sales division has been concerned with methods and equipment for printing and processing amateur snapshot pictures. His interests in general nature photography has been concentrated in garden and flower photography since he became actively engaged in garden club activities in Rochester several years ago.

An extensive knowledge of horticulture combined with his understanding of the problems of the average picture taker enabled Mr. Trimble to present the subject of flower photography in "down to earth" terms in a manner to encourage the most non-technical person to try his hand in this fascinating field.

Mr. Trimble pointed out that a little attention to such details as choice of background, lighting situations, and pleasing composition can give a real thrill and sense of satisfaction to one's flower pictures.

Mr. Trimble showed examples of color photographs made with cameras ranging from the inexpensive box camera to the more advanced 35mm camera.

He showed how you can enjoy the summertime beauty of your garden, even when the ground is covered with snow, through the magic of color slides and pictures; how you can photographically "deep freeze" your garden flowers



**ARTHUR P. TRIMBLE**

at the peak of their summer splendor with a color camera and "thaw them out" with a slide projector to be enjoyed time and time again with your friends and family; how you can make record shots of your garden plants and the changes through the years; and how you can illustrate techniques for flower arranging or step-by-step procedures for making crosses for new varieties.

Mr. Trimble had a lot of information, all in non-technical language to delight the "gardener turned photographer." His collection of outstanding garden and flower pictures was unusually beautiful, too.

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240 pages. Published March 1965 \$6.95  
Send 10¢ for African Violet Growing Supplies Catalog  
**BERNARD D. GREESON**  
3548 N. Cramer Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# ILLS & CURES OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Mrs. William J. Krogman  
1325 Parkway Drive (S. 125 St.)  
Brookfield, Wisconsin

(Mrs. Krogman conducted one of the  
convention workshops)

No doubt everyone interested in this topic has encountered some difficulties in violet growing and surely all of you are aware that such problems exist.

In the past, many uninformed persons were reluctant to admit having had any violet troubles or ailments, even though they may have admitted discarding certain plants that "did not look so good". Discarding unhealthy plants is a most commendable practice and need not be a complete loss if some of the leaves are still firm and time and patience are exercised in starting a new plant.

It has often been said that "everyone growing violets for any length of time has had

some contact with mite, nematodes, root rot, mealy-bug, fungus, virus or any of the now recognizable violet ills." Assuming that this is true, you will also agree that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Today most violet enthusiasts are aware of the "common" attacks and are keeping a constant vigil for symptoms of many kinds, while many inexperienced growers become *unduly alarmed* at existing or non-existing symptoms and in their anxiety, and without further diagnosis or consultation,—harsh cures are applied with such diligence that the plants often succumb to the treatment rather than the ill.

Since many African violet ills can be prevented physiologically, I would like to remind you that a robust, strong, and healthy plant, like a robust, strong and healthy child, living in a wholesome atmosphere has far greater resistance to diseases than a frail, sickly weakling, living in unfavorable conditions.

Improper watering, lack of fresh air, poor ventilation, and insufficient light will not only make weaklings of your plants, but will make them more susceptible to diseases. Lanky plants with inferior blooms also are the usual results of such inadequate conditions, coupled

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with the lack of humidity.

Excessive nutrient, lack of sanitation, and poor cultural conditions and procedures are "roots of many evils" for violets, primarily by *destroying* feeder roots and making plants vulnerable to attack of many of our common plant ills.

Remember it is NOT a disgrace to admit that your violets have ills, but it is shameful to spread infestation because the symptoms are not known.

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## Fungus, Virus, Mildew and Botrytis

By *Cordelia Rienhardt*  
Syracuse, N. Y.

(One of the talks given at a convention workshop)

Fungus, virus, mildew and botrytis are all first cousins and many of the conditions that cause and encourage one will also help spread any one of the others. Mildew and botrytis are both types of fungus that are encouraged by overwatering, high humidity, low temperature, poor ventilation and crowded conditions.

Mildew is very common in the spring and fall of the year when heating systems do not come on as often as other times and thus do not keep the air moving between the plants. Mildew appears as a powdery white substance on the backs of the blooms and in spots on the leaves. If the blossom is shaken lightly, a fine mist of whitish powder can be seen to rise from the plant. At the first sign of mildew, control measures should be taken. A change of conditions is of course indicated, a small ventilating or even an electric fan will help to keep the air moving, plus more room between the plants and a little higher temperature will help. Once the spores of mildew are present spray the walls, floor, benches and around the plants with Karathane or Mildex, which of course contain sulphur. Any of the rose fungicides which contain phaltan will do a good job. I have a little trick which I use with good results. At certain times of the year and usually in March, just before show time, a little mildew will appear. I fill small pot saucers with Karathane and set it between the plants where I have noticed any mildew. Whenever I am watering or working in that area I just give the saucer a little rap on the table and blow, thus releasing a minute amount. Try doing this in areas where your air circulation is poorest as in corners, before you have any mildew and it will not be likely to develop.

Botrytis is not very common in our part

of the country, or perhaps it is that people do not recognize it as such. Botrytis is a blight and appears as a gray mold. It will attack cuttings or newly potted plants first and will eventually spread to older plants if control measures are not taken. Botrytis differs from mildew in the respect that it is apt to be a problem in warm, damp weather when blossoms tend to decay fast. Color is gray rather than white, blossoms become water soaked, discolored and fall early. Leaves may become watery and collapse. Poor sanitary conditions such as not removing dead blooms, old blossom stems, dying lower leaves and remains of broken petioles, make ideal environment for botrytis. It grows first on dead and decaying plant matter, whether in the pot, the trays or the benches. First step is to clean up all decayed matter, then a light dusting with fermate, followed by a good fungicide spray. Phaltan or a fungicide that contains zineb, such as Dupont Fungicide A, used two or three times about a week apart will usually clear up this condition.

Some viruses may be passed on from one generation to another and accepted as typical of that variety. The virus was probably carried to the plant originally by an insect from an outside source. Symptoms of virus are leaf distortion, discoloring of the leaf which continues for no known reason and also leaf puckering. If you suspect virus have your local inspector check your plants and if virus is found, it is better to destroy the affected plants.

We cannot talk of fungus and not mention crown rot, root rot, petiole rot and any other kind of rot that hits violets because every rot is caused by a fungus. Crown rot and root rot used to be the most common problem of African Violets, but we have learned so much about lighter soil mixes, soil sterilization, etc. that it is less of a problem. Never use soil that has not been sterilized. We use methyl bromide capsules and sterilize everything that goes into the mix, even the peat moss. Overwatering and the use of heavy soil will shut off the oxygen supply from the roots and start root rot. Use a light, porous soil that drains readily. Many people are having very good luck with the U. C. and Cornell mixes which contain no soil at all. Plants in these mixes drain so readily that they almost never have crown rot, but the plants do have to be fed regularly as there is not enough food for any length of time. Some type of soil insecticide added to potting soil and also to the starter mix will help to prevent rot. I find that about  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of fermate mixed into enough starter mix for a 10 x 6" pan will

prevent leaves from rotting. We also add a little fermate to our potting soil.

I realize I have not mentioned the symptoms of crown and root rot, thinking everyone here must know them. But for the benefit of the new members perhaps I should describe them. First warning may be a plant that is not using up the water as it should and remains wet. Plant may or may not begin to have limp outside leaves. African Violets are some times very deceitful things and will rot until you can lift the whole top off before the leaves look too droopy or even stop blooming. A single, water soaked leaf is a warning. If the plant becomes wobbly in the pot very often root rot is at work. Suspect a plant that looks in need of watering, but on

examination is wet. Once crown rot has started there is not much that can be done. Withhold water and sprinkle a little fermate around the top of the soil. I haven't mentioned using fermate as a spray because it is just about like lamp black and will leave a black residue on your plants. However if you have very soft water and can water over the top of the plants and wash off the residue after it has done its work, then use it as a spray because it is very good. It is hard to mix with water and should be mixed into a little water at a time (like you mix thickening for gravy, ladies), use 1 to 2 tbpl. fermate to 1 gallon water for a spray. Simplest way is to prevent rot by STERILIZED SOIL, PROPER WATERING and LIGHT SOIL MIX.

## *Pests Which Attack African Violet Foliage*

*By Dorothy Sponenburgh  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada*

**(Convention workshop speaker)**

We all have trouble now and again with pests which attack our African violet foliage. Sometimes it is easy to detect and identify, while at other times, we may not know the guilty party.

Some of the more common ones to African violets are the sucking and chewing insects. These include mealy bugs, aphids, mites and thrips.

If your plant has a dull, dusty look and the bloom stalks look gray and webby with malformed flowers and leaves, on looking closer, you may find white cottony sacs near the crown of the plant in the crevices at the base of the petioles. You will also see an oval gray bug about one quarter of an inch long. This is a mealy bug infestation. The white sacs are the eggs which take about ten days to hatch into the gray bug. They suck the juices from the plant, weakening them, causing your leaves and flowers to be malformed.

If your collection is small, you can eliminate the egg sacs by applying alcohol on a cotton swab directly to the egg sac.

A mild detergent solution followed by a stream of warm water will take care of the adult insect. Continue every ten days until your plant is free of all eggs and adults.

If your collection is large, a contact spray is recommended, one which contains malathion, DDT or rotenone. This will kill off the adults but not the eggs. Therefore spray

every ten days until all eggs are eliminated.

A good preventative is sodium selenate.

How do we acquire mealy bug? They are easily transmitted on clothes from outdoor plants. The greatest offenders are coleus, fuchsia, gardenias, plus many more.

If a plant seems to lack vitality, has yellow foliage, blighted buds with leaves that curl under, it could be aphids. They are larger than mealy bugs so can be easily seen on your plants. They are usually light green but may be brown, yellow or black. They have wings in one stage. They feed by sucking the sap on or near the bloom stalks. Flowers fade quickly and due to stalk injury, remaining buds do not open. Remove blossom and flower stalks. Sodium selenate, NNOR, nicotine sulphate or any contact spray such as House and Garden Raid, used as directed is recommended. Ivy and roses are the most likely hosts.

The thrip leaves a different pattern on the leaf. It takes a week for the eggs to hatch. A white nymph emerges. It cuts into the leaf and sucks the sap leaving at first, white streaks, then as pits on the upper surface of the leaf or brown spots on the under sides. The adult insect is approximately one eighth of an inch long, winged, varying from yellow to dark brown or even black according to the species. These too need contact spray such as mentioned previously.

Mites have been a trial for many African violet growers. They are sneaky so that by the time you can see the damage they have done, you have quite an invasion. There are

(Continued on Page 76)

# Dr. Reed Tackles Problem of Genetic Varieties

Dr. Sheldon Reed  
Geneticist,  
St. Paul, Minn.

The violets offered for sale in florists' shops in four inch pots continue to be a disappointment to me because they give such a poor example of what should be done to build up the commercial African violet business. The plants which I see offered are not satisfactory for two main reasons. The first is that they are grown poorly—but I will not go into that aspect of the problem. The second reason is that so many of the plants offered for sale are of varieties which are not suitable for florists' shops. Because of these two major faults the florist is often left holding half of the plants he has purchased because they cannot be sold. In fact some of them in the lot are not saleable at the time they are received. It is the problem of the genetic varieties offered for sale that is of concern to me as a geneticist, and which should be of great importance to the greenhouse men and to housewives who wish to sell to the local florists. I should point out that the violet in a four inch pot which will sell for three to five dollars at retail cannot be shipped very far; consequently, there are thousands of markets in small towns throughout the country which can be supplied by homegrowers, if they can provide acceptable plants.

Let me emphasize some of the rules which should be observed in offering plants to the florist for the retail trade. These are not for fanciers, but for the big business of hospitals, anniversaries, and other impulse buying of non-fanciers.

1. The customer is not going to buy the plant unless it has good bloom. The customer buys flowers, not leaves. The leaves are irrelevant except that they should not be variegated as the average customer thinks that variegation is a disease. A plant should not be offered for sale unless it is in good bloom because it is the bloom that sells the plant.

2. The plant must not be a single flower type. Only doubles should be offered for sale because the singles often will have shed their best blossoms before they can be sold. The florist will then be left holding plants which he cannot sell because the flowers have fallen. After a few experiences of this sort,

he will probably discontinue violets entirely.

3. Strains with genetically small flowers should be discarded. However, Amazons or Tetraploids are not recommended because they are too brittle.

4. The flowers should be pink, purple, blue or fuchsia. White and pastel colors do not sell well and only a few of them should be included in a consignment to provide variety. If they do not sell at all, they should be discontinued as one cannot afford to offer plants which fail to sell.

5. The plants should be "husky" and grow rapidly in order to expedite rapid turnover and a profit from the venture. Efficiency must be high because the profit margin is so low.

It is surprising how few of the "100 Best" varieties selected by the members of the African Violet Society meet the five simple specifications just given and would make satisfactory plants for sales from stores and florists' shops in four inch pots.

One of the main objectives of my research program is that of producing a few varieties that would meet *all* five specifications. This is not as easy as it would seem. However, some progress has been made. My variety called "American Vigor" is a rugged double pink which seems to do very well for both home growers and greenhouse people. It sells very well. "American Mayfair" is a double blue-

purple which sells well but is not quite as floriferous as desired. "American Frills" is a most striking double pink which seems to be highly promising. Its leaves are sometimes fringed and can revert to normal on the same plant; this would be distressing to fanciers but is not of concern for the commercial market. A final plant which might turn out to be valuable for the important impulse buyer's market is called "American Purple." It is a dark purple semi-double with fringed leaves and flowers. This plant has the necessary large flowers which fortunately are on erect stems well above the foliage.

The above four plants of the "American" series are not final answers to the problem of commercial varieties. They should be considered and studied as steps toward the goal of success for the African violet as a commercial plant. At present the African violet is not a competitor for chrysanthemums, azaleas and cyclamens in the market, partly because of prejudice against the violets. The reason for the prejudice is that the florist has lost money on them in the past because the varieties sold to him were not suitable for his business. They did not have enough bloom.

A second phase of my research project is that of producing small varieties which are suitable for window sill growing in apartments. Such plants should be fairly small, but they do not have to be miniatures. To receive wide acceptance they must be highly floriferous, be free of the "Girl" type gene, and also fairly husky in growth. Lyndon Lyon's "Redderness" is a good example of a satisfactory window sill plant. My research is that of introducing genes from small size from *S. shumensis*, the smallest African violet species available, into regular varieties and then selfing the hybrids to get the small plants with desirable flowers. A number of satisfactory varieties produced so far include "Window Bright" and "Window Lace." These small violets are not thought of as being of much interest to the ordinary florist but for the imaginative one with an artistic flair they offer an opportunity for profit. They can be combined with ceramic containers for eye appeal.

The final part of my research, to be reported, is concerned with the crosses between the different species of African violets. Dr. Clyde Clayberg and I have both crossed most of the known species with each other. The hybrids are intermediate between the parent species as would be expected. It is also obvious that many pairs of genes must be involved in

producing the differences between any two species. The question of interest to me as a geneticist is, "How many pairs of genes are concerned with the differences between *S. orbicularis* and *S. velutina*?" These two species are easily distinguishable from each other by anyone. The hybrid between them is intermediate. I have selfed the hybrid with the expectation that in the second filial generation there will be a few plants with leaves or flowers just like one parent species or the other. This turned out to be the case for various traits. For instance, in the second generation one out of every four plants had no red pigment showing on the backs of the leaves which is true of *S. orbicularis*; also, one out of four of the second generation plants had the intense red pigment of *S. velutina* in its leaves. This means that the presence or absence of red pigment is determined by a single pair of genes in these particular species. The hybrid is intermediate in red pigment production with none at the edges of the leaves.

It is interesting that this striking difference in pigmentation between the two species depends upon a single pair of genes for its appearance. It is also clear that most of the other differences between the two species depend upon only one or a few pairs of genes for each trait. My estimate, subject to change as more data become available, is that there are only 50 to 100 gene pairs involved in the differences between *S. orbicularis* and *S. velutina*.

The research just reported seems to be so little for the many hours expended upon it. However, it is one of the facts of life that research proceeds slowly, two little steps forward and one backward. But let me assure you again, that in the long run, research pays off handsomely.

**(EDITOR'S NOTE—Dr. Reed's research project is being carried on with money provided by the Boyce Edens Fund. The Research Committee is composed of Frank A. Tinari of Bethayres, Pa., chairman; Hugh Eyerdom of Medina, Ohio; Lyndon Lyons of Dolgeville, N. Y., Henry Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dr. Reed)**

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**Granger's Gardens**

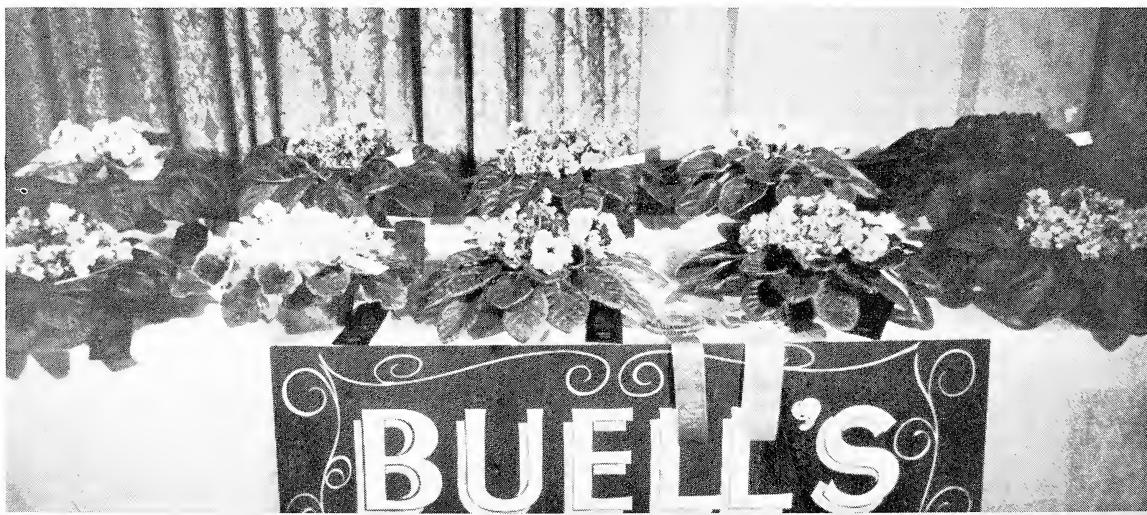
## Commercials Were Tops at the 19th Annual AVSA Convention

*By Anne Tinari*

At the stroke of midnight on April the 8th I hastened to the magnificent showroom in Baltimore, Md., clad in comfortable shoes and armed with writing equipment. I met a faithful team of fellow workers, determined to stay up as long as was necessary to bring you a detailed description of the magnificent displays, we in attendance were privileged to enjoy.

Mrs. Albert Lefebvre, Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. Warren Churchill, Sharon, Mass., Mrs. Elfrieda Tiede, Woburn, Mass., Mrs. Claire Poulette, Kempton, Pa., and Mrs. Mildred LaBadie, Philadelphia, Pa., were a marvelous team of reporters working with me to capture this beauty as efficiently as possible. To describe each and every one would be almost an impossibility but to check the growers lists you will find them more expertly described. However, it seemed to us like the quiet calm after an anxious sea of faces has been permitted to file through for their first breathtaking glimpse of the beauty our commercials provide for us every year.

**Buell's Greenhouse**





### Tinari's Greenhouses

The culmination of months of grooming and preparation burst forth in all its glory as the show doors opened each and every one of the 14 exhibitors had truly come through in show fashion to display such plants of good show quality.

The first three winners will be described in order of highest point scores accumulated, as your gracious show chairman Mrs. Millikan, gave them to us. I was kept busy making detailed descriptions of the decor of each show table. My team undertook the huge task of reporting each

grower individually, descriptions being made by them as follows.

*GRANGER GARDENS* table was adorned in a striking peachy pink satin skirt. A back drop sign displaying the firm name in a cluster of Granger originations painted at the upper right hand. Granger's received the trophy for the best commercial exhibit table; and for "Prom Queen" the best new introduction.

Prom Queen was their outstanding blue ribbon, best seedling winner in Class 6. A large lavender fringed single blossom with definite wide white edge and red back tailored foliage, this cultivar captured the blue rosette in its class. Among other blue ribbon winners were Guinevere, Orchid Cluster, Star Eclipse,

### Lyndon Lyon





### Rose Knoll Gardens

Grand Duke, Maid Marion, pink with darker pink centers; Traubador, Oh So Gay, Purple Gold, Maisie Yakie, Lullaby, Liberty Belle, Mariner Blue, a huge dark blue blossom edged in white; Maid of Astolot, Cherry Sprite, Colorama, a good white single with heavy white edge; all these were among the 21 blue ribbons, thirteen red ribbons, third award, Best sport or mutant Class 6, blue rosette, and first award best plant Class 6.

*Mrs. Mildred Lefebvre*

*TINARI GREENHOUSES* of Bethayres, Pa., won the second highest point score in the commercial displays capturing 23 blue ribbons, 3 red, a pink rosette and white and red rosette for second and third best seedling awards. Their exhibit was done in solid black velvet with back drop in gold letters bearing

the message "Welcome AVSA Members to the 19th Annual Convention." The familiar Tinari trademark with large gold cupids shooting violets with their arrows, and the skirt held a large heart with gold imprint "Violets in the Heart of Maryland." Three beautiful Lilian Jarrett plants all blue ribbon winners were displayed. Many lovely seedlings the most outstanding and receiving best award was Flash Supreme, with unbelievably large double blossoms.

Best plant in this display was X797, a large 4, 5, & 6 petal star shaped pink rayed with blue and fused white edge, plain foliage and huge blossoms, winner of the pink rosette. Another seedling X793 white single with good frilled blossom and dark red center with dark wavy foliage. Still another outstanding

### Hi-Hill Gardens





### **Meeses' Flower Shop**

in a new color, deep coral pink single blossom with rounded petals, was especially lovely. Tinaris also showed some of the old favorites America, Pagan Fire, White Pride Supreme. Among the new ones were Lady Wilson, Bicolor Beam, Bicolor Flirt, Fiesta Flame, Roman Rose, and a huge Star Gazer at the center of their exhibit.

*Mrs. Warren Churchill*

The LYONS display area featured on a snow white back with neat white and black sign for identification, and a sky blue satin skirt which seemed to set off each plant as a special bouquet. Winners of the third commercial award, some of their lovelies were Purple Choice, Master Blue, Candy Lips, Peak of Pink, White Perfection, Pom Pom, a large wine red with semi double blossoms edged in white. Another new seedling Pat's Pet was outstanding, a semi double green and white fringed blossom on dark green foliage were all blue ribbon winners.

Several new miniatures were introduced

on their exhibit table Peacock, Mischievous, Tina Roses, and Bloom Burst.

*Mrs. Mildred Lefebvre*

RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE featured an attractive brass stand at center table with brass stands on each end holding six pots. The table skirt of green and white textured material and the same material on top with a layer of black net dotted in bold, gold dots was attractive.

Their exhibit held 16 blue ribbons, 7 red ribbons, and 2 white ribbons. Among the many plants featured were Tippecanoe, Whipped Cream, double white green backed and large tailored leaf; Sheleen, Snappy, red single white edge good tailored leaf; Clearwater, a good medium double blue; Carinelita, red fringed semi double; Knockout, Senorita, Blackfoot, a purple double with ruffled edge; Smiles, a single pink with deeper eye; Highland Beau, Finery, a velvety plum red, and Pearly Shells. Some new seedlings were Devils Gold, a plum red velvet; Bambina, a light

### **Annalee Violetry**





### Richter's Greenhouse

blue double.

*Mrs. Elfrieda Tiede*

*ANNALEE VIOLETRY* of Bayside, New York put on a handsome display of miniature violets in an attractive old-fashioned reed cradle. Violets were sunk in sphagnum moss, a red mat back drop to match a skirt and table top of soft brown plastic material was used.

She was the recipient of an award for Tawny Peach, a seedling that received second award and best seedling in Class 6. Also best plant of exhibit receiving pink rosette. A lovely delicate semi double pale peach blossom held high above quilted foliage.

Other blue ribbon winners were Citation, large cupped ruffled star of rich wine color; Swan Lake, clusters of white double bloom, lavender shadings in center; Flamenco. The lovely cradle held many miniatures Wee Willie Winkie, Strawberry Sherbet, Little Cup Cake, a beautiful rich rosy shade; Demitasse, variegated foliage with double red lavender

bloom; Star Daisy, bright red single star with supreme foliage; Loverly, Persian Cherub and many others.

*Mrs. Claire Poulette*

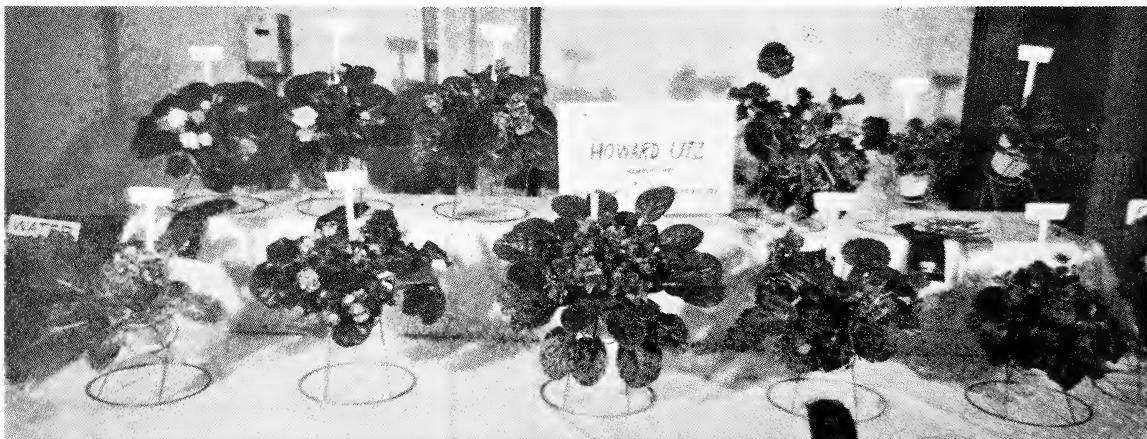
*MAXALEA NURSERIES* of Baltimore, Md. had a striking black satin background with hanging pot in center. Their violets were displayed in various attractive arrangements of plant stands, colored glass, brandy snifters, and attractive Easter baskets.

They earned 16 blue ribbons. Among the award winners was a large plant of Kimberly. The pink rosette was awarded for a plant of Ruffel Duffel displayed in a cut glass creamer and sugar. The variety Candy Lips adorned the sugar bowl.

*Mrs. Mildred LaBadie*

*FISCHER GREENHOUSES* of Linwood, N.J. displayed a table of lovely plants. A pale lush lavender skirt gracefully draped made a contrast with the sturdy white back that held containers with plants in full bloom,

### Howard Utz





### Fischer Greenhouses

neatly placed.

They were awarded 14 blue ribbons, 15 red ribbons, and 3 white ribbons. Some of the outstanding introductions were a large medium purple single with lighter purple shadings at edges. Rose Dust, red single with crimped edge; Spring Snow, a huge white single appearing glazed with ice crystals. Frosty Pink, best plant award on their display, was a large fringed fully double pink with wavy red backed leaf.

*Mrs. Mildred LaBadie*

**ROSE KNOLL GARDENS** of Assumption, Ill. display featured a white satin skirt, the background held a window with white draw curtains. A huge pink satin heart trimmed in white lace featured the name and motif "Rose Knoll Gardens in the Heart of Lincoln Land."

This exhibit won 6 blue ribbons, 2 red ribbons and third prize for commercial exhibit.

### Madison Gardens

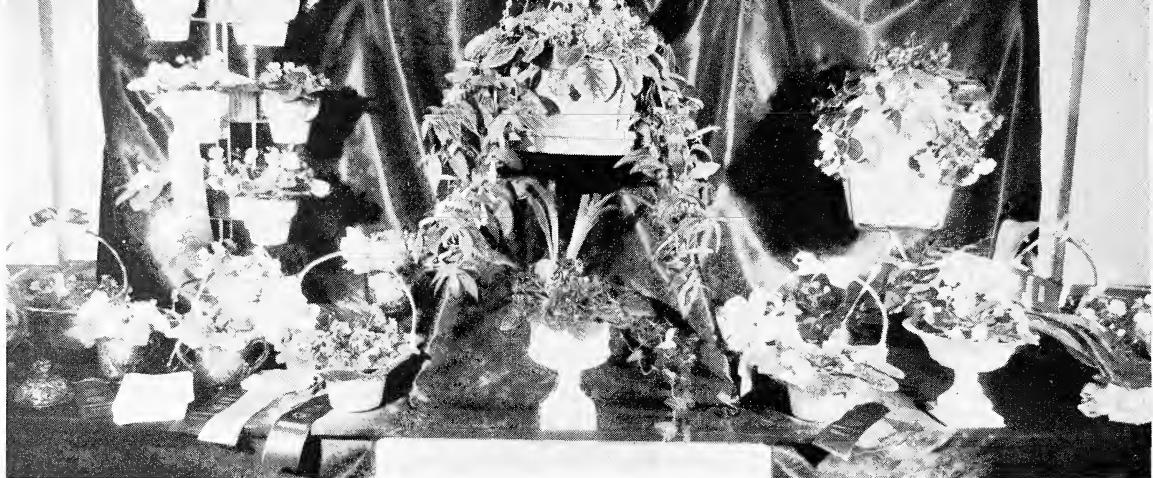


Some of the blue ribbon winners were Strawberry Shortcake, winning best plant on their exhibit and the pink rosette, a good double pink. Jewel of Siam, a dark red fringed double seedling; Cherry Jewel, a rosy pink double waxed green red back foliage; Jewel Kazan, wine red with double darker shading in blossom. Others featured were Citation, Miracle Rosette, and Fuchsia Jewel.

*Mrs. Mildred Lefebvre*

**ALBERT BUELL** of Eastford, Conn., a well known grower, featured 10 plants, extremely large, each in a 10" pot were magnificent. A large attractive sign displaying the Buell name was at the front of the table skirt.

Among the blue ribbon winners were Red Candle, a vibrant red lavender; Double Black Cherry, a real old favorite; Mint Popcorn, lovely



### Maxalea Nurseries

filled double white blooms touched with lavender, light variegation on leaf; Charm Song won first award on their display. Blue Lace won the red ribbon award.

*Mrs. Claire Poulette*

**POCONO MOUNTAIN VIOLETS** by De Santis Greenhouses of Moscow, Pa., had a dazzling display of seedlings. An attractive deep gold skirt and back drop was outstanding among the 18 blue ribbons, 4 red ribbons, and 4 white ribbons.

The best plant on their display winning the pink rosette was Covington, an extremely dark maroon double; Rickey, a semi double red purple with sharp white edge; Star Pocono, a huge orchid star with darker edge; Pocono Snows, Pocono Ruth, a bright red semi double; Pocono Sun, an outstanding star in clear shades of pink with good darker pink of thin white edge.

*Mrs. Warren Churchill*

**HI HILL GARDENS**, the theme of this exhibit was "In the Heart of Old Maryland." It had the charm and originality that Mr. &

Mrs. Polites have displayed at previous conventions. A huge outdoor colonial gas lamp post with two authentic large black wagon wheels with violets in full bloom, were held between the spokes. A most attractive heavy yellow silk brocade background was so becoming the effect was one of real beauty.

Their plants held 7 blue ribbons, and 5 red ribbons with first award on best sport and mutant in Class 6 Caroline Supreme, a huge double pink, dark green red back foliage. Best plant Class 7 on their exhibit receiving the pink rosette was Daphne, a large semi double pink with purple flecks. Others were Aegean seedling, Persephone, and Gemini seedling.

*Mrs. Albert Lefebvre*

**HOWARD UTZ**, a hybridizer from San Antonio, Texas featured a group of seedlings. Among his four blue ribbon winners were Etude seedling, blue shell pink double dark leaf. Nettie Lee, dark girl leaf, flat growing, bright double pink; Dee Dee small plant with girl leaf red double white fringed edge, this received best of his exhibit award. Blue Sen-

### Pocono Mountain Violets



sation, huge medium blue double fringed green edge, girl leaf. Redi Red, a double red, dark tailored leaf, Believe, double medium blue, green fringed edge.

*Mrs. Elfrieda Tiede*

*MEESES FLOWER SHOP* featured a group of seedlings, first award was given for Rex a double medium purple supreme seedling with dark green tailored leaves. Brim, red double with a white edge and dark green wavy leaves, Parfait double pink with dark green tailored leaves.

*Mrs. Mildred LeBadie*

*MADISON GARDENS* of Madison, Ohio, had one of the most attractive displays with its soft pastel satin background forming a charming background for the African violet display.

It was a delight to see the many winning ribbons adorning the table where Mr. and Mrs. Martin Rand had on display many of the small growing types of the lovely plants. Some of the new hybrids for '65 that they're extremely enthusiastic over are Golden Girl, Atomic Glow, Cherry Dazzle, Red Roses, Chapel

Lace and Si Bon.

Several commercial growers which did not have display tables but entered specific classes were as follows:

In the gesneriad family a large and beautiful florist gloxinia of fuchsia red with white dots over white background border was awarded a blue ribbon to none other than our good president Frank Burton, Old Saybrook, Conn.

In Section VI, Class 15 Emperor, a peachy pink violet with deep pink edging slightly variegated, forest green leaf, was awarded a blue ribbon recipient Raymond Taylor of Hilton, N.Y. He also won in Section VI, Class 16 with Strawberry Shortcup, a very intense deep rosy pink and very large leaf. This was also awarded the silver cup.

In Section II, featuring a single or double blossoms, a blue ribbon was given for Pink Riot, entered by Frank Burton. A blue was also given Raymond Taylor for the variety John F. Kennedy, a thick fully double rosy pink blossom with interesting heart-shaped leaf.

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# Growers Express Optimism Over Break-Through

Pritchard Mealy Bug Gives Birth to Young, Doesn't Lay Eggs

Much optimism was expressed by Commercial Growers at the Commercial Growers breakfast at the Baltimore convention over the fact that a break-through has come in Dr. Robert Snetsinger's research on the Pritchard mealy bug at Pennsylvania State University. The break-through came when it was ascertained that the Pritchard mealy bug gives birth to living young, rather than laying eggs.

Dr. Sheldon Reed, geneticist, told the group that if the Pritchard mealy bug does not lay eggs, then one killing is sufficient in the eradication of the pest. He explained:

"If you kill them you are through with them. One killing is all you need. Whereas, if you have egg forms, they can lie around a whole season and then come to life again."

As a result of this break-through, Frank Tinari, research chairman, pointed out that the second phase of this undertaking is to be carried on to develop chemical control of the Pritchard mealy bug. Tinari has set aside 250 plants for this project.

In the discussion that followed, caution was advised concerning products now on the market and it was suggested that these be used on a few plants at a time. It was also pointed out that destruction of all infested plants is the best cure. Mrs. Ruth Millikan and Mrs. Harold Rienhardt told of their experiences with the mealy bug. Mrs. Millikan was forced to destroy 450 plants at one time. "It's most frustrating" she added. Mrs. Rienhardt said, "Just turn your pots up. You'll see 'em working alive." Mrs. Jeff Rhoades told of the help she receives from the Ohio state

inspector with her greenhouses.

Tinari voiced the hope that the Boyce Edens Fund be developed to such an extent through cash contributions and memorials that the research work can be widened and developed to solve more African violet problems.

It was brought out that several state universities are presently engaged in projects dealing with African violet diseases and pests.

Dale Eyerdom stressed the importance and the need of attacking these problems in an intelligent manner. He especially emphasized the need of complete sterilization or the destruction of all infected plants. He advocated complete burning of all such plants.

Nematodes also came in for consideration as Mrs. Augusta W. Sarna reminded growers that "at the present time we are no nearer a chemical nematocide than was Dr. Streu in 1960" when Dr. Streu of the Rutgers University Experiment Station published an article in the African Violet Magazine on "The Control of Nematodes on African Violets."

"It is not because no new chemicals are coming out of the laboratories," she explained. "It is because we have no investigators to examine them for the African violet. What may be a good nematocide for the commercial grow-

## GRACE'S VIOLETRY

The Home of  
**(MINIATURES)**  
African Violets

434 Clifton Ave.      Clifton, N. J. 07011  
Visitors Welcome      Phone 779-8673

Many New and Beautiful Varieties

Send Stamp for List — Yes! We Ship.

er, may not be safe for the home grower.

"I would suggest that some money be made available to the Rutgers University Department of Plant Pathology to continue the work started.

"To sweep the problem under the table or to deny that you have no nematodes in your greenhouse is only postponing the unhappy day for the African violet industry.

Mrs. Sarna, who has been carrying on nematodes research, was of the opinion that "until new chemicals are discovered that will kill the parasite in the soil and in the root knots, it is advisable to use only steam as an effective soil nematocide."

Calling attention to one of the problems facing growers at present, Lyndon Lyons told of a slight change in certain fertilizers and the ill effects on African violets.

"The changed analysis in fertilizers can be very dangerous," he said, as he related experiments be carried on with eight flats of 40 to 60 varieties in each flat.

All the growers expressed appreciation of the work being done by the African Violet Society in carrying on such research projects and it was the hope of the Commercial Growers that the society membership would increase and the Boyce Edens Fund could be

enlarged.

To aid in increased membership, Albert Buell suggested the Commercial Growers include an AVS membership blank in their catalogs.

"All of us ought to realize that it's what we can do for the Society, not what the Society can do for us, that has real meaning," he said.

In the action which followed, it was decided to carry a profile of the various Commercial Growers, who have membership in the African Violet Society, and to list the Commercial Members more in detail in the July Handbook as a service to the AVS members.

#### A few of our new hybrids for '65

Golden Girl, "Si Bon", Red Roses, Cherry Dazzle, Chapel Lace, Atomic Glow

Stamp for list, or visit us at greenhouses this summer. Open daily and Sunday 1 to 5 P.M.

#### MADISON GARDENS

6355 Middle Ridge Rd. Madison, Ohio  
1/2 mile west of 528



#### GRO-LUX TABLE TOP UNIT

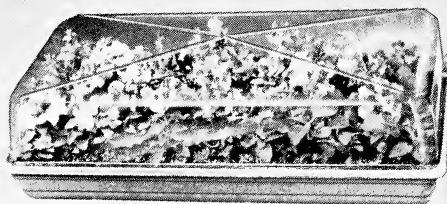
The Sylvania GRO-LUX Table Top Unit includes a gold color shade, with 6' cord, plug and switch, two 20 watt GRO-LUX lamps, and a white plastic "Humidity Tray" to keep bottoms of pots above the water line, and to help provide increased humidity. Height of light adjustable from 12" to 22" above the tray, on the sturdy black legs.

Price: \$19.85 plus \$1.00 mailing cost to 5th zone; Same with automatic time switch \$29.95 plus \$1.00 mailing costs. If mailed beyond 5th zone—west of Denver or to Florida—add \$2.00 for mailing.

We can supply all sizes of GRO-LUX lamps, postpaid in lots of 6 of one size—20 watt—\$2.20 each, plus postage, or 6 for \$13.20 ppd. 40 watt \$2.35 each, or 6 postpaid for \$14.10.

#### HARVEY J. RIDGE

Dept. J51 1126 Arthur St.  
Wausau, Wis. 54401



#### PLANT-A-TARIUM

The best thing yet for rooting leaves and crowns, nursing baby plants or starting garden plants. Plastic bubble maintains proper humidity for propagation and may be removed when plants develop mature root systems. Use with 36 square JIFFY-POTS or rooting medium.

Large plastic tray is 11" x 2 1/2" x 22' and clear plastic cover is about 4" high. Complete with 36 2 1/4" peat pots only \$6.69 postpaid to zone 5. Add 50c if shipped west of Denver or to Florida.

To use without pots, order RIDGE'S RAPID ROOTING MEDIUM—about 5 quarts with Plant-A-Tarium for \$1.50 (Trial size, about 2 1/2 qts, \$1.00 ppd).

The Plant-A-Tarium fits nicely under the lamp of the Table Top Unit, making an ideal combination for propagating.

#### VALUABLE BOOKS FOR YOUR LIBRARY

*Fluorescent Light Gardening*, by Elaine Cherry. Published March \$6.95.

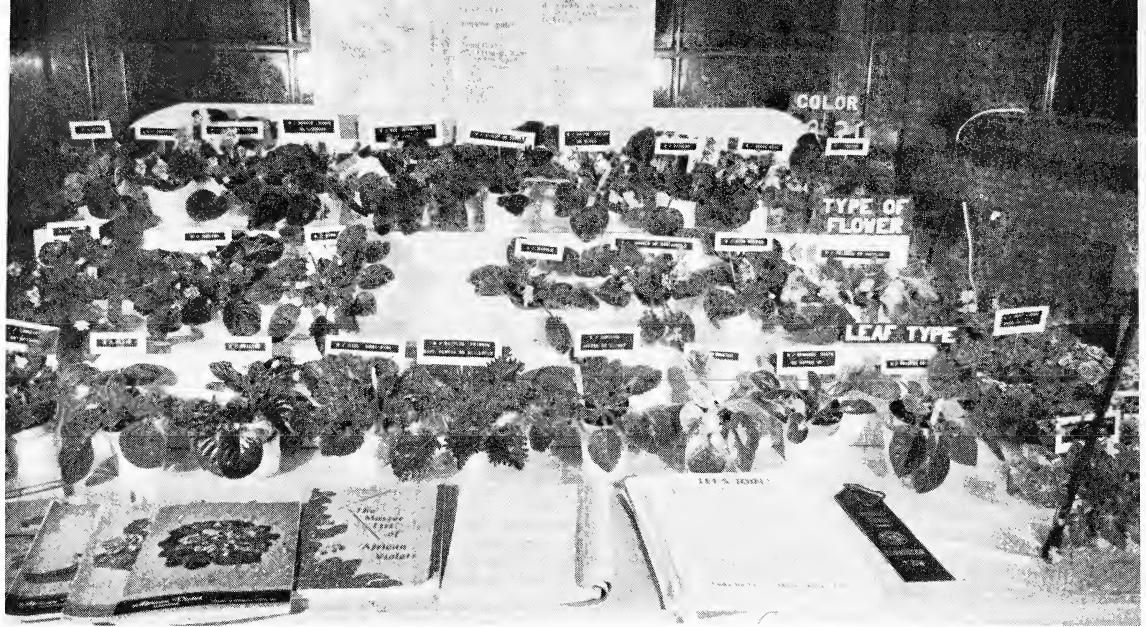
*Artificial Light Gardening*, by Johnston-Carriere, 1964 \$5.95.

*New Complete Book of African Violets*, Van Pelt-Wilson, Rev. 1963, \$5.95.

*Gloxiniias and How to Grow Them*, Peggie Schulz Revised 1965, \$4.50.

*Growing Plants under Artificial Light*, Peggie Schulz, \$3.75.

*Gardening Indoors Under Lights*, Kranz, \$4.95.



## Educational Exhibit Features Color, Flowers and Leaf Types

The educational display at the Baltimore convention was most timely and received a special award. Mrs. Bertha Beatty was chairman and Mrs. Ronald Preston was co-chairman. Both are members of the Susquehanna African Violet Society.

The exhibit featured every type of African violet and every leaf type, the African Violet Magazine, the culture sheets, propagation methods, food, soils, soil conditioners, insecticides, sprays and practically everything needed for growing healthy plants.

In speaking of the educational exhibit, Mrs. Beatty had this to say:

"I knew I would be unable to bring out this exhibit in full color according to the registration of classification. I made a trip to see

Frank and Anne Tinari, presented the idea to them, and Mr. Tinari said he had always wanted this idea worked out at a National Convention. He graciously offered to furnish the blooming plants. I selected the colors I wanted. These plants were delivered to me at the convention in perfect condition."

Mrs. Beatty went on to say that Mrs. Preston had to leave while she was setting up the exhibit to provide a pint of blood to her husband who had undergone a very serious operation of John Hopkins Hospital.

"Mrs. Mary B. Cahill left her work of door prizes and table decorations long enough to ask if I needed help" Mrs. Beatty added. "I told her the enlarged poster above the exhibit had been misplaced and could not be found.

(Continued on Page 76)



# Soil and Root Infestations

*Mrs. Jeff (Helen) Rhoades  
Rose Knoll Gardens  
Assumption, Illinois*

(Resume of talk made at Baltimore convention workshop, "Ills and Cures of African Violets")

There are probably as many formulas for soil mixes for African violets as there are people who grow these plants. The types of soil infestations, however, are relatively few even though they are found wherever there are growers. This does not mean that every grower has them but it is very probable that at one time or another, one of the infestations has plagued them.

Ideal conditions for growing plants such as the right heat, humidity, light and growing environments are also perfect for the propagation of all these insects. Greenhouses and growing in trays under lights make it more of a problem to eradicate them than those growing plants in saucers.

There are two theories used in eradication. The first is the use of specific insecticides; the second is organic growing in which nature's products are used in soil mixes and with proper growing

will combat soil enemies.

A plant growing at its very best is less likely to fall prey to infestations than one that is barely growing. However, if a heavy infestation occurs, it is necessary to either destroy the plants or take proper means to kill

## BRAND NEW FOR SPRING 1965

**STARDOM**— Huge, rich dark blue wavy semi double on tailored foliage.

**ERIE FLAME**— Vigorous, brilliant, giant red maroon star single. Heavy bloomer on dark green quilted foliage.

**VELVET CASCADE**— Super, Black purple, wavy single on soft dark green foliage.

**MARINER BLUE**— Large rich dark purple full double with crystal white edge on waxy dark green foliage. Beautifully symmetrical.

**PINK MEDALLION**— Vibrant, deep pink double, white shading on outer petal edges, ornamental foliage, terrific size of bloom on strong stems.

The above varieties are not on current Spring price list. These may be ordered in 2½" pots directly from this ad @ \$2.00 each. Minimum order \$6.00 including \$1.00 for postage and packing. Also carried on new Spring list, Lori Sue, Poinciana, Janny, Soft Tint, Grand Duke, Gay Pirouette, etc.

Send .10 for complete Retail List.

Wholesale list free on your letterhead.

## GRANGER GARDENS

R. 2 Box 289, Medina, Ohio

Ph. 239-9300 Sharon Center

Located mile east of schools at Granger, on Medina 66 off Rt. 94.  
Open every day 8:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.

the insects.

Sanitation is the prime factor in keeping down soil infestations. Complete sanitation is essential under all circumstances. Sterilized or new pots are taken for granted. Sterilized soil or non-contaminated ingredients are also taken for granted, but often the measurerers for this soil or the containers used have not been sterilized. Potting tools, area work spaces and trays used a previous time and thought to not have been contaminated can be the cause of an infestation. Some people who use rocks or broken pots for drainage material, will grab these without a thought that they must be as sterile as the pot. Extreme care should be one's first thought.

Soil as a rule is sterilized now by the majority of the growers. This is done by steaming or heating or by the use of chemicals such as VC13. Those who use the organic theory add certain materials such as tanner's by-products (Elk-organic), composted material, and other organic means.

It is a well known fact that the presence of millions of soil bacteria is a boon to good growing. The use of humus in soil mixes gives us a source of bacteria. Proper steriliz-

ing is essential in order not to destroy these. Overheating is possible and will kill many of the bacteria.

To you who are having the results you wish for: good plants, stay with your way of growing. If you are having trouble, some clue may be given to help you.

Soils and water not only vary in all parts of our country but within one state may be as widely varied. Alkalies, acid, an oversupply of lime, phosphate, potash, salts, insoluble minerals and other ingredients affect both our soils and waters. Sand, clay, muck, and loam are only a few of the soil types. If you plan to use soil from your area in your mix it is advisable to have it tested first at your area agriculture office.

"Soiless" mixes are becoming more widely used. These are usually composed of sphagnum moss, perlite, vermiculite or other similar materials. Organic fertilizers or chemical fertilizers are added to these.

No matter what formula you use, the important thing is that it works for you under your conditions. If you are having trouble, keep experimenting in small quantities until you find your mix. The investment in a

## KROGMANS' VIOLETRY

1325 Parkway Drive (S. 125th St.)

Brookfield, Wis.

I mile from Hwy. 16, 18, 15, 45, 100 & Exp. 94 (1/2 Block North of 59—Greenfield, Ave.)

### NEWEST VARIETIES FOR 1965

The following New Varieties for Summer & Fall shipping:—

Freshly Cut Leaves @ 35c or 12 for \$3.50 Plus 50c for Postage & Packing.

**RICHTER'S**—Bambino (dwarf), Blackfoot, Devil's Gold, Finery, Knockout, Pearly Shells, Smiles, Snappy.

**GRANGER GARDENS**—Clover Glow, Maid Marion, Pink Capette, Sweetest Blue, Dark Angel, Velvet Cascade, Lori Sue, Grand Duke, Shades of Wine, Pink Medallion, Fantasy Cheer, Janny, Poinciana, Coral Queen.

**LYON'S**—Bloom Burst, Blue Bounty, Cousin Janet, Dotty Red, Double Diamond, Double Joy, Pink Parasol, Pinkette, Raspberry Frost, Pink Date, Ever Pinker, Fringed Delight, Lieberman, Lime, Little Joy, Many Loves, Mischievous, Orchid Glow, Cheerie, Wild Charm, Snappy Red, Variegated Racy Red, Nut, Mrs. Pink, Pat's Pet, Pink Hat, Pink Shimmer, Pink Storm, Star Shine, Splashy, Strawberry Red, Tiny Rose, White Commotion, and Gary's Choice.

**TINARI'S**—Flash Supreme, Lady Wilson, Fiesta Flame, Pagan Fire, Pink Linda, Peppermint Twist, Black Diamond.

**OTHER HYBRIDIZERS**—Pink Hi-Hopes, Cherry Dazzle, Mindy Pamona, Daphne, Persephone, Cathy, Cherry Tarts, Red Roses, Atomic Glow, Sue Ann (Var.) Aegan.

Also **COLUMNEA**—Anna C., Betty Stoehr, Butterfly, Cascadilla, Cornelliam, Canary, Evlo, Dragonet, Early Bird, Euphora, Gloriosa & Magnifico, Hirta, Joy, Oneidan, Vera Covert, Yellow Dragon, Hypocertas Trigilosa and Wettsteinii.

See our Current 1965 list for many additional New African Violets and some old Favorites.

Send dime for list. Apply 10c credit to your order.

small soil testing kit, which is advertised in our magazine, will be a big boon in your growing. It is easy to use and simple to understand.

Peat moss adds humus to your soil mixes. Perlite is a water retainer as well as a means to permit a light airy soil. Vermiculite is a water retainer. Turface is another organic medium that is a good water retainer, yet doesn't float out as perlite does.

Here are a few mixes: The Cornell Mix composed of 4 qts. Spaghnum peat moss, 4 qts. perlite, 1 level tbs. 5-10-5 commercial fertilizer, 1 tbs. limestone. Two weeks after planting in this medium it is advised to start your regular feeding program. If this mix dries out too rapidly, substitute 2 qts. of terralite for 2 of the perlite. For an organic mix the same amounts of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite may be used and 2 tbs. of Hoosier Blend, Re-Vita, or Fertalife or other organic fertilizer may be added. These are long lasting fertilizers. Fish emulsion or Whale are often used as additional fertilizers in a weekly feeding program. Another popular basic mix is  $\frac{1}{3}$  each of woods soil, compost and dried cow manure.

Among the many other ingredients added either individually or in combination of two to all, as you find your best soil mix are: sand, charcoal, leafmold, rock phosphate, rock potash, dolomite, limestone, trace minerals, tanners' products, egg shells crushed, clay, and many organic compounds as well as chemical ones. It is up to you to work out the mix that works for you. Our magazine has had wonderful articles on the many mixes and recipes that work for others. Try one of these and by addition and subtraction you will find one that you can use with success.

One important thing to remember: Try to keep your plants in a uniform mix, repotting those you buy into your own soil, first washing all soil from the plant and thoroughly examining the roots for root infestations.

Usually the first root insect that is noticed by the new grower is the little white shipping insects found on the water in the saucer under a plant. These are springtails, so called because of the wiggling tail that propels them in a jumping motion. They are supposed to be a harmless insect. Since there is another insect somewhat similar to the springtails and is more damaging, it is advisable to use a method of eradication that will assure complete riddance of both.

This other insect, a symphilid, is a tiny off-white white creature that wiggles on the

surface of the water. Symphilids will chew the fine roots of a plant, prohibiting the plant from taking up the necessary water and food to grow. A limp plant often results and until the symphilids are destroyed, the plant can't grow properly.

Nearly all growers have at one time or another fought the little black gnats. These emerge from the soil and are seen flying about especially in the windows. A spray eliminates those that are flying about but it is an endless job if you do not treat the soil. These fungus gnats emerge from larvae in the soil which in turn are hatched from eggs. Eradication of these will eliminate the gnats.

The fourth insect in this group are the oligochetes, which also are often seen after watering. They appear as tiny brown wiggly worms. They are said to be harmless, feeding on decaying matter in the soil.

The above insects can be easily eradicated by the use of Lindane. The wettable powder is preferred to liquid concentrates. Using 25% wettable powder at the rate of 1 tsp. per quart of warm water, saturate the soil thoroughly. Remove whatever remains in the saucer after the pot is completely soaked.

Two more severe infestations can be nematodes and the soil mealy bug. The use of a nematicide, VC13 in particular, will help control nematodes but does not completely eradicate them since those that are harboring within the plant cannot be reached. However if they move out of the plant into the soil or water, they are destroyed. The residual effect on soil is said to be high, giving some control for quite a period after treating. Soil can be treated with a solution of VC13, 1 tsp. to 1 quart of water, treating 1 bushel or 8 gallons of soil. Allow to stand two weeks before using. Trays, benches in greenhouses, potting tools and containers can be washed in a solution or drenched. Pots are also soaked in a solution of chlorine bleach to which VC13 has been added. A caution one should take: Use rubber gloves at all times. Again cleanliness is a prime factor in combatting insects.

The soil mealy bug has been found everywhere, appearing as tiny white particles or a glassy white not only inside of the pot but also on the outside. They can often be mistaken for the very fine white particles of perlite by the casual grower. Research is being conducted by this Society through your support on the eradication of this insect. A new systemic insecticide Cygon 2E is being used extensively. At the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. per gallon of

# Cooperation Needed Between Local, State, National Organizations

(Workshop at National convention at Baltimore)

by Mrs. Herbert W. Sullivan  
of Huntington, L. I., N. Y.  
Pres. of North Shore  
AVS of L. I.

A panel of outstanding members of local, state and national organizations presented a study in depth of the procedures that help make successful affiliated organizations.

Mrs. Robert Hamilton of Oradell, N.J., affiliated chapters chairman, pointed out the panel theme that cooperation between local, state and national societies is a reciprocal responsibility. She announced that 275 local societies were affiliated with AVS a year ago and today there are 380 locals and 10 councils.

Mrs. Thomas Edmundson of East McKeesport, Pa., the national parliamentarian, told of

the necessity for proper parliamentary procedure and pointed out certain precautions in the preparation of rules and by laws, reminding them that an affiliated organization cannot make rules contrary to state or national rules. Each organization, she said should have a constitution and by laws, standing rules and rules of order with the parliamentary authority specified. Mrs. Edmundson explained a few elements of good parliamentary practice regarding the making of motions, stopping of debate, and interpretation of by laws.

She invited affiliated clubs to send her questions or problems and when so doing to enclose a copy of the club's constitution and by laws.

Mrs. Frank Bell of Troy, N.Y., president of the New York State African Violet Society, spoke of the responsibilities of a council to local organizations and to the national society. She emphasized the cooperative function of a council, which may be formed to serve a special purpose, such as, she said, The New York State Judges' Council. She declared that a council has responsibilities for communication, information, assistance, cooperation, impartial decisions, and suggestions for improvement of both local and national levels.

Jimmie Watson, president of the New York City AVS, offered many practical suggestions on keeping the membership active and interested. He felt that a small, enthusiastic board of directors is the heart of an organization, but that we should not lose sight of contributions that may be made by the general membership. He suggested the use of a questionnaire to discover the potentialities within the membership, assignment of tasks to willing workers; public recognition for jobs well done; a local bulletin to advise members of current and future plans; plus special articles related to growing African Violets.

Mrs. Thelma Usinger of St. Louis, Mo., recommended articles of Sept. 1961 and March 1962 dealing with organization of new clubs.

Mrs. Clarissa Harris of Calimesa, Calif., called attention to the importance of good programs and stressed the need for a live-wire program chairman. She suggested using good outside speakers, but reminded all that pro-

## SOIL AND ROOT

(Continued from Page 71)

water, the mealy bug seems to be killed without visible damage to the plant. Thoroughly drenching the plant from the top and letting it thoroughly soak up the solution seems to do the job. Those growing in trays with grit, rocks, etc. should be treated in the same manner.

In our own growing, upon recommendation of the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture we add 1 tbs. of wettable chloradane powder to 1 bushel of soil. This takes care of the first 4 insects discussed as well as earth worms, grubs or other soil borne insects that would damage roots. One grower having many greenhouses of violets added Dieldrin to the sterilized soil and has not encountered mealy bug or insects working in the soil.

We, who are in highly productive farm areas, have faced all the pros and cons of insecticides and their use. Whether we face a "Silent Spring" or the possibility of being wiped out "over night" by insects is the problem. One conclusion is reached: Extreme caution must be used. Read all labels thoroughly, and use only recommended amounts of insecticides. Protect yourself with rubber gloves, and have excellent ventilation.

We are in a changing world that affects every phase of our life including the growing of plants. The problems of you who grow only a few plants are not as great as those with thousands. You can control situations a little quicker. Each grower has to work out his own problems.

# Commercial Growers Show New Seedlings, Varieties

By Ann Richardson  
Lincoln, Massachusetts

Have you ever thought about how awful it would be if we had no commercial growers? We have them to thank for giving us the wonderful varieties we have today, for without them we would not be able to put on our fine shows and would not have the companionships which flows from our associations. Glance at the ads in the magazine and you will find full details of what was being sold at the commercial tables at the national convention in Baltimore. While roaming about, your reporter gathered the following information.

**POCONO MOUNTAINS VIOLETS**—*De Sandis Greenhouses, Moscow, Pa.* Mr. Nick De Sandis said this is a family business, four brothers and a sister. Nick is the hybridizer and his talent showed in their display of seedlings which were the subject of much favorable comment during the show. Nick started playing with African violets as a hobby 10 years ago. Lyndon Lyon got him started and instructed him and Nick feels that he owes Lyndon a debt of gratitude. Pocono Mountains Violets has been selling violets for about six years having sold 100,000 in the past year. Before that they were one of the largest orchid growers in the East but now have discontinued orchids in favor of violets. They feed strictly Peters fertilizers 12-36-14 for the regulars and 5-50-17 for the variegated. Their violets are grown on plastic to avoid

pests. They use deep well water which is full of minerals for watering. They have quite a few new seedlings coming along for next year. We look forward to seeing them.

**PREMIUM INFINITE INC.**, *Rutland, Vermont*

Mr. Neil E. Mitchell is the President of the above company which makes the Aquamatic Planter. The Aquamatic has a reser-

## CO-OPERATION NEEDED

(Continued from Page 72)

grams which involve the whole membership and train new members in the basic techniques of Spaintpaulia culture are valuable club activities.

Charles Day of San Antonio, membership chairman, urged the practice of combining membership in the local and national organizations. Although present membership in AVS provides good services and a fine magazine, more members would mean finer services and better publications, he said.

Mrs. F. J. Hamtil of St. Louis, Mo., president of the Metropolitan St. Louis AVS, felt that the best publicity was that of an enthusiastic member who showed by his knowledge and interest the value of local and state affiliation.

Mrs. W. F. Anderson of St. Louis, Mo., second vice president of AVS and librarian, discussed the problems and future plans for library services to all affiliated clubs. Mrs.

Anderson requested that all slide programs borrowed from the national library be mailed to the next recipient or returned to the Knoxville office immediately after showing.

This will facilitate maximum use of the programs and avoid embarrassment to fellow program chairmen who may be depending on their use.

Valuable items of information revealed were:

1. Copies of the National By Laws may be obtained from the Knoxville office, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

2. Possibilities of purchase by clubs of slide pictures of the convention highlights, outstanding plants, displays and officers was explored and it is hoped may become a reality soon.

3. The librarian would like to make available to clubs copies of show schedules which could be examined by local groups. She requested that show chairmen send schedules to her.

voir that holds a 30 day water supply enabling the plant to draw water as needed. It comes in particularly useful during vacations or when for other reasons watering is a problem. A very porous soil is important on top of a layer of parakeet gravel.

*ROSE KNOLL GARDENS, Assumption, Illinois*

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Rhoades were at the Convention together but Mr. Rhoades permitted his wife, Helen, to do the talking. She explained that growing African violets started as a hobby 10 years ago. Then Mr. Rhoades was run over by a tractor and a load of corn and as a result he was in and out of the hospital all winter. When he partially recovered, his doctor recommended that he have a hobby and he chose to sell angus cattle. Mrs. Rhoades got tired of sitting home and decided to go along on the trips her husband made and she carried the African Violet Magazine with her and began visiting African violet growers. Soon friends began to suggest that she bring them a violet and when too many asked she decided to "make a little bit on it" and from that a business started and once started it grew by leaps and bounds. "Jeff's Jewel" is one of Mrs. Rhoades' hybridizations. She is presently working on miniatures.

*TINARI GREENHOUSES, Beihayres, Pa.*

The Tinaris are always so busy with Convention work that they do not sell plants at the Convention but will take orders. Their table was graced with copies of their beautiful catalog for the members.

*MADISON GARDENS, Madison, Ohio*

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Rand have been growing violets for about 25 years. They grow both large and small plants but for several years Mrs. Rand has been concentrating on small growing types as they both feel that people are beginning to prefer them and that there is a large future in them.

*POULETTE WELDING CO., Kempton, Penna.*

Mrs. Claire Poulette said that her husband designed Garden Gate Plant Racks, which she was demonstrating, because she crowded the window sills with so many violets that he felt he had to do something about it. She now has 10 pairs in use and Mr. Poulette teases her about using up all the profits. At least we get the impression that they must be useful. Proof of the pudding, you know.

Mrs. Poulette is the founder of the Lehigh Valley African Violet Society, now three years old. They meet in Allentown and take in a radius of 60 miles. They have already had two

shows and received the Green Rosette at the last one.

*HI HILL GARDENS, Etters, Pa.*

Mr. William C. Polites and his sister-in-law Mrs. Doris J. Polites were "manning" their table. Mr. Polites has been growing African violets for about 8 years. They grow mostly other people's varieties but do have a few of their own such as "Athena" and two new ones "Aegean" and "Daphne".

When asked if anything interesting had happened in their greenhouses they said that once a ground hog got in and bared his teeth when they tried to get him out. They finally succeeded in getting rid of their unwelcome guest by putting up barricades and channeling him out the door.

*GRANGER GARDENS, Medina 2, Ohio*

Mr. Dale Eyerdom, son of Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Eyerdom, and his wife, were selling this year due to the fact that Mrs. Eyerdom has still not recovered her health. To Mrs. Eyerdom's friends, her son sends the message that "things are looking pretty good and my mother is looking forward to working on future conventions". Dale explained that theirs is a family operation and that his father is the hybridizer. They also produce tomatoes and lettuce and since they both come at the same time, they sometimes don't know whether to sell violets or tomatoes. At the Convention, they were selling violets—especially "Poinciana", "Janny" and "Lori Sue" which they had introduced in Dallas. This year they introduced "Prom Queen", "Red Coat" and "Fire & Ice" which they hope to be selling at the Florida Convention.

*TUBE CRAFT INC., Cleveland, Ohio*

Miss Gertrude Huge was showing the Flora Cart, one of which has been given as an award in the Baltimore Show. Something brand new has been added. You may now buy strip lighting called "Modular Lighting", single or double, combination of fluorescent with incandescent 25w bulbs for your Flora Cart. Tubes and bulbs are sold separately to fit.

*LYKES AFRICAN VIOLETS, East Bethany, N.Y.*

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lykes together with Mrs. Wm. Brown, were selling at their assigned table. The Lykes have been in business since 1938 and this was their 17th national convention. They missed only the first two. In our talks the reporter discovered that Mrs. Lyke is Postmaster. (Uncle Sam has no mistresses, she said.) It is a small town post office and the greenhouse is right off the lobby of the Post Office. There is also a large picture

window in the Post Office with three shelves of violets. Sounds like a beautiful Post Office doesn't it?

*BUELL'S GREENHOUSES, Eastford, Conn.*

Mr. & Mrs. Albert H. Buell and Mr. & Mrs. Dana F. Basto were selling. Mr. Basto caught everyone's eye with his shirt, white with print of tiny red ties with a red bow tie to match. He would not admit how he got the outfit—did not even blame his wife. Mr. Basto said that some of their nicest plants were ruined when a cat, walking on top of the greenhouse, fell through the glass right on top of their show plants, scrambling the plants and letting in the cold. However, the plants that were brought down stole the show. They were later given to the Society by Mr. Buell to be auctioned, the proceeds to be given to the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

*AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.*

Mrs. E. Pearle Turner of Akron, Ohio, had a table displaying AVSA jewelry. What's new? A life membership pin, silver or gold—for women, a pin, charm for charm bracelet or lavalier—for men, lapel button or tie pin.

*MRS. DELIA SYMONDS, San Francisco, Calif.*

Mrs. Symonds thrilled us all with her beautiful hand painted items. She paints for people around their hobbies, anything they want, but of course this time she was concentrating on African violets. Her African violet plates with multiple blossoms are the biggest item of sale. Next comes the jewelry. Men, she said, are the biggest buyers.

*STILLWELL ORGANIC SUPPLY CO.*

Mr. E. C. Stillwell was selling Atlas Fish fertilizer and fish meal, along with a few other items, including the Atlas Loc-Tite plant ties. Although he has been a member of AVSA for 12 years, he does not grow African violets himself because he says he does not find time for all the things in which he is involved.

*RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE, Highland, Indiana*

Mrs. F. D. Richter informed the reporter that they had recently moved to new greenhouses at 9529 Indianapolis Blvd., Highland, Indiana, which are larger and more convenient to find and to park. They completely dismantled their old greenhouses and pulled them all out to Highland to make the new location and in the process of moving took along something on the order of 35,000 violets which did not suffer as a result of the move. They are now back on their regular hybridizing program.

We were happy to see all of the above and thank them for coming.

# Be a Missionary! Help AVS Grow

*Charles C. Day  
New Membership and Promotion  
220 West Sunset Road  
San Antonio, Texas*

Delight is hardly the word to express my feeling regarding the results of the New Member Contest. This has succeeded in bringing in an untold number of new members, and we have only begun to scratch the surface. We will hold the contest again for 1966, and we will begin with this issue of the magazine. We want to urge even greater participation—and the rewards are well worth it.

But we want you to know one thing: No matter how hard a committee works, nor how well-organized, it cannot begin to do the work that you as an individual can accomplish. As a committee, we can cajole, we can offer assistance, but with all of this, it is the working of the individual members at meetings, at shows, anywhere a flower lover is found, that counts in the last analysis.

What would you like your Society to be? Would you like more services, color pictures of new varieties in each magazine, a larger magazine, perhaps a bi-monthly? This, and much more, is in the realm of complete possibility, but only if we continue to grow and enlarge.

You can be a missionary for our Society. You can evangelize for the cause. Remember this—if it had not been for this great organization of ours, the African violet would not have flourished as it has—it might have gone the way of so many other passing horticultural fancies. But the Society, with its centralization of interest, sponsorship of research, and through the dissemination of information through the magazine, has created a favorable climate for hybridizers and commercial growers and suppliers. These, in turn, contribute to grower interest. Growth of the Society is not the sole responsibility of the officers and directors of your Board. They may lead, but it is humanly impossible for them to do what you, as individuals, can accomplish with comparative ease. Don't forget that your officers and Board members are volunteers, giving countless hours of time and effort because ours is a cause in which they believe fervently. Match your faith with theirs. Little mustard seeds accomplish miracles, why not seeds of faith and work?

The Society has done much for all of us.

In the future let each of us ask not what the Society can do for me, but what can I do for the Society.

## BALTIMORE

(Continued from Page 43)

is so overwhelming we can't remember *what* we've seen. One little group of plants in the Amateur Division we do remember just because they were so utterly fetching — there were three of the same variety, Rosy Posy. One got a Blue Ribbon, one got a Red Ribbon, and one a White one, and there they were, sitting together like little girls in pink dresses quite overcome at finding themselves at such a big party!;

Another thing we like to remember is the elegant marble staircase which swept from the Lobby up to the Show Room. Ascent, no fun but descent, another matter. Poised at the top, our busy imagination half expects to see a Page in velvet Doublet and Hose standing below ready to blow a bit of a fan fare and announce our name in ringing accents as we make our queenly descent. But no one below even glances up so we know there is no page, no fan fare, and no announcement — but it's fun to pretend.

And now we are home having been met by a husband who said, "I had a frightening nightmare! I dreamed I was an Arabian Sheik and had to take care of my sixty wives violets while they went Camelung across the desert to the Convention!"

Possibly those of us who are experienced gardeners might start classes for senior citizens in gardening. It has unlimited possibilities.  
—Victor H. Ries.

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### VOLKMANN BROS. GREENHOUSES

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## EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

(Continued from Page 68)

She rushed out of the hotel, grabbed a taxi, and went four places before she was able to find a place who would make a poster in two hours time. This was at 2:30 p.m. Thursday."

However, when the show opened, the educational exhibit was a bloom of color — posters were exhibited—and the entire display was in readiness and occasioned much comment from the many visitors! . . . thanks to the cooperative efforts of willing African violet workers!

## PESTS WHICH ATTACK VIOLETS

(Continued from Page 55)

two kinds which attack African violets. One is called the broad mite and the other the cyclamen mite.

The broad mite is gray, develops more rapidly but is easiest to control. It attacks the outer leaves which curl downward.

The cyclamen mite cannot be seen with the naked eye. It affects the tender young center leaves which get very distorted, crisp and gray. They appear stunted, shiny, gnarled and hairy. Flower stems are thickened and short, sometimes not even getting above the leaves. The flowers are distorted, blotched, off-color and if they open at all, are very small.

It is carried from plant to plant by hand, on your clothes, watering utensils, tools etc., also community trays.

Aerosol bombs especially for mites may be used or sodium selenate.

They work deep down into the center of the plant so aerosol bombs do not always reach them. In which case, a dip is indicated. This will catch any that may have escaped. Protect soil from being lost, by placing plastic over top of pot, making it secure, then dip the complete plant - pot and all in dip. There are recommended ones on the market. Remove when thoroughly soaked and set aside to drain. Avoid drafts or sunlight until thoroughly dry.

If infestation is very bad, it may be advisable to discard plant, pot and all. This is sometimes better than exposing a whole collection.

In conclusion may I say, I cannot stress too strongly care in using poisonous insecticides which have been mentioned. Always read instructions carefully and follow faithfully.

Also may I stress cleanliness, with regular spraying to avoid possibility of infestation, as an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

# All About Our Clubs and Shows

Sonja Cuneo, 58 Hill St., Tewksbury, Mass.

The **CLEVELAND SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY'S** 14th annual show "Violets On Parade" was a complete success. Mrs. Charles Dautel won Queen-of-Show with "My Darling" and Princess-of-Show with "Beauty Tips". Mrs. John Flowers won the Sweepstakes award. Awards and Rosettes went to Mrs. Dautel for "My Darling" and "Beauty Tips," and Mrs. Flowers for "White Madonna". Awards also went to Mrs. Flowers for "Lavender Shadows", and "Black Magic". Rosettes were given to Mrs. Flowers, too, for "Purple Knight", "Ivory Fashion", "Forever White", and "Dixie Moonbeam". The awards for most points in arrangements went to Mrs. Joseph Hodan. Mrs. Flowers also won a Tube Craft watering wand for the best specimen double blue with "Wedgewood". Chairman of the show was Mrs. Henry Loesch, and her co-chairmen were Mrs. Joseph Hrabak and Mrs. Charles Dautel. Mrs. Charles Crawford, Mrs. Carl Fleming and Mrs. Perry Wattrous judged the show.

★ ★ ★

The **RHODE ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** was invited to exhibit at the second annual Rhode Island State Flower Show in Providence. The public was very much impressed by their beautiful plants and they were equally interested in seeing the way violets are propagated.

★ ★ ★

"African Violets Worldwide" was the theme of the **SANTA CLARA VALLEY** (California) **VIOLET CLUB'S** sixth annual show. Travel posters in colors complementing violets were used on the walls to carry one's imagination to the countries which raise violets. Members dressed in costumes native to these countries, ranging from the Indian sari to the kilts of Scotland. The Gold National Rosette award was won by Mrs. Melvin Tallmon with "Colorado Paint Brush", "Delft Imperial", and "Wedgewood". Mrs. Tallmon's "Blackjack" won Queen-of-Show. Minnie Hall was general chairman and Elizabeth Morgan was arrangement chairman

★ ★ ★

When this issue goes to press it will be time for the **HAPPY 'OURS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY'S**, New Jersey, ninth annual show. The theme is a "Welcome to Spring" with a fashion show featuring violets. Arrangements and artistics classes will be a challenge to the imagination for those who like to discover new ways to use African violets to beautify the home. This month, the club will be giving their sixth scholarship to the boy or girl from Bergen or Passaic counties (New Jersey) who wish to continue their studies in horticulture. One of the club's members, Mrs. Herman Kosson of Passaic, suffered a great loss recently. Her home was destroyed by fire and along with her personal possessions, Mrs. Kosson's complete violet collection was lost. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Kosson. We all hope, too, that your home will be re-built soon and refurbished with items and violets you like.

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The **NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF HUNTINGTON**, L. I., New York has had and continues to be, a busy and interesting 7th year. Albert Buell gave a lecture at one of their meetings. Mrs. Anne Tinari installed their officers. There was a panel discussion where past Queen-of-Show winners spoke about "How I Grew A Queen-of-Show Violet". On the panel were Miss Leila Engenets from the **GREATER NEW YORK**



**WINS PRIZE** — Mrs. Arsene Doucet, vice president of the Sunshine City African Violet Club in Florida, is shown with her prize winning "Red Candle" which won the handsome silver plate award at the club's annual show.

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Mrs. Richard Chapin of **SOUTH COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Mrs. William Hastings of **PENATAQUIT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, and their own Mrs. Herman Koster. At another meeting Mrs. Lizeta Tenney Hamilton, our Affiliated Chapter Chairman, gave a most worthwhile talk on "Point Scoring Before and After Grooming an African Violet Plant". Other highlights of the season: Mrs. Edward Burns gave a lecture and demonstration on making arrangements; Dr. Louis Pyensen of the State University of Farmingdale, L. I. spoke about "Insects and How to Control Them". The Club's show plans are in their final stages, and one of the judges of the show will speak on "Critique of the Big Affair" at a future meeting. Their season will then end with installation of 1965-66 officers.

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A delicious buffet supper at the home of Mrs. John Williams was held to celebrate the founding of the **FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY CLUB** of Ashtabula, Ohio, 10 years ago. Their six charter members: Mrs. John Ellis, Mrs. Frank Hooever, Mrs. Francis Luce, Mrs. R. Fisher, Mrs. John Torma, and Mrs. R. Pilkington, were each honored with plants.

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The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DENVER, CHAPTER ONE** in Colorado held the 15th annual election of officers. New officers for 1965 are: Mrs. Frank King, president; Mrs. Fred Binner, vice president; Mrs. Richard Carr, treasurer; and Mrs. Paul Kiesling, secretary. Main projects for the year are grooming violets for shut-ins, and raising violets to be sold at the annual show sponsored by the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council to help defray show expenses.

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The officers of the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE**, New York are: Harold Rienhardt, president;

Harold Schmelling, first vice president; John Tump, second vice president; Mrs. Richard Gundlack, secretary; Mrs. E. K. Herald, corresponding secretary and Stuart Bobbitt, treasurer.

★ ★ ★

The present president of the **WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** in Wisconsin is Mrs. Harold Stein. The proposed slate of nominees are: Mrs. Meredith Roe for president; Mrs. William Krogman for vice president; Mrs. Harold Koepsel for treasurer, and Mrs. Robert Jennings for secretary.

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The **NORTH COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** in New York elected the following officers for a two-year term (1965-66): Mrs. Nettie Russell, president; Mrs. Aurora Mallette, vice president; Mrs. Kathryn McDermott, recording secretary; Mrs. Mildred Cheffee, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. Lentner, treasurer; Miss Vivian Dufort, news reporter; Miss Florence Lang, historian; and Mrs. Margaretta Dansone, librarian.

★ ★ ★

The newly formed **ANCHORAGE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Alaska recently held an election of officers as follows: Richard Johnston, president; Mrs. Richard Simpson, vice president; Mrs. Shelby Parks, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Arnie Erickson, Miss Evelyn Huntington and H. L. Lauderdale, directors. Miss Huntington was elected program chairman and Mrs. Parks, publicity chairman. The club meets the second Thursday of each month at 101 E. Northern Lights Boulevard.

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The 1965 officers of the **GLENDALE** (California) **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** are as follows: President, Mrs. George Carpenter; first vice president, Mrs. Chester Maxwell; second vice president, Arthur Glotfelly; recording secretary, June Moss, corresponding secretary, Clara Peace; treasurer, Virginia Riley.

★ ★ ★

The 1965 board members of the **POMONA VALLEY** (California) **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** consists of the following: President, Mrs. Dorothy Parker of Yucaipa; first vice president, Miss Gladys McKee; second vice president; Mrs. Margaret Mathewson; recording secretary, Mrs. Mabel Rathbone; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Vern Coewell; treasurer, Mrs. Vera Wright.

The society's 12th annual show "Violets in Springtime" was held with Mrs. Alex J. Mueller of La Verne, show chairman; and Mrs. J. L. Hunter of Claremont, co-chairman.

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"Begonia Wonderland" is the theme of the **SEATTLE BEGONIA SOCIETY'S** 11th annual Seafair Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show set for July 31—(2 to 9 p.m.)—Aug. 1 (10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Loyola Heights Fieldhouse, 21st Ave. N.W. and 77th Street Admission 35 cents.

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The following is a list of the new officers of the **LAKESHORE AFTERNOON SAINTPAULIA CLUB**: Anne Neitzel, president; Myrtle Luedthe, vice president; Bernice Reed, secretary; Augusta Hughes, secretary; Elsie Zierke, member-at-large.

★ ★ ★

The officers of the **CLEVELAND SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY** in Ohio for 1965 are: President, Mrs. John W. Held; vice president, Mrs. Joseph Hrabak; recording secretary, Mrs. Stephen Bekeny; treasurer, Mrs. Charles Dautel; librarian-historian, Mrs. Stephen Fabian; and trustees, Mrs. Harold Miller, Mrs. James Taylor; Mrs. George Vargo; Mrs. Henry Loesch, and Mrs. Robert Pertko.

★ ★ ★

The new officers of the **BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** in Maryland are: Edna K. Thompson, president;



**1965 OFFICERS:** The 1965 officers of the Hub City African Violet Society of Compton, California, are as follows: Left to right: President, Mrs. Edna L. Denton; vice president, Mrs. Vivian Johnson; secretary, Mrs. Myrtle Reed; treasurer, Mrs. Leona Tracey; and retiring president, Mrs. Berenece Kummerfeld.



**CHARTER MEMBERS** — These three are four of the charter members of the Hub City African Violet Club of Compton, Calif., who are still active in the club work. They are, left to right: Mrs. Ann Wellbrock, Mrs. Hattie Dippold and Mrs. Berice Yolton. The fourth charter member, absent because of illness, is Mrs. Wynona Jackson, organizer of the club.

Helen Merker, vice president; Eugene S. Thompson, treasurer; Barbara Stipsak, recording secretary; Bobbie Trageser, corresponding secretary; and John S. Trageser, membership secretary.

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The **PHILADELPHIA CENTER CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** in Pennsylvania held a successful "White Elephant" sale to improve their treasury. Mrs. Anne Tinari gave a talk on "How New is New in African Violets?" at their February meeting. In May the club celebrated their fifth birthday, plus had a slide program that day.

Officers are to be elected June 8 and there will be no meetings during July and August.

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The officers of the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AKRON**, Ohio are: president, Miss Evelyn Hawk; vice president, Robert Bell; secretary, George Klewe; and treasurer, Mrs. Clarence Wallace.

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The following lists the new officers of the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF THE EAST BAY, INC.**, in California: Millie Blair, president; Ardene Newton, first vice president; Betty Whelan, second vice president; Carrie Summerfield,

recording secretary; Maurine Moffitt, corresponding secretary; Cecelia Wood, financial secretary; Grace Bales, treasurer; Cathy Anschultz, junior past president; and directors, Mary Talevich, Electra Hanson, and Alice C. Kinsey.

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The newly elected officers of the **PIONEER AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** in Elmira, New York are: Miss Elma Kyler, president; Glenn Parker, vice president; Mrs. Lorena Whitney, recording secretary; Mrs. Edna Youmans, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Sarah Waltman, treasurer. Their 1965 show was held in April. The show was not a judged one, but one to help promote more interest within the community on African violets. Each member of the club took active part in the show. Leaves and small plants were sold only on one day of the show to help defray expenses.

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The **COLUMBUS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Columbus, Ohio, elected the following officers to serve in 1965: Mrs. L. L. Mayle, president; Mrs. James M. Hart, first vice president; Mrs. Allen L. Bump, second vice president; Mrs. Russell Rice, recording secretary; Mrs. John H. Steckel, treasurer; and Mrs. C. T. Mercer, corresponding secretary.

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The **TWIN CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** in Indiana held their 10th anniversary celebration at the home of Mrs. Frank Longfeldt. Cake and other delicious refreshments were served.

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At a special installation luncheon, the following were installed as officers of the **TALLAHASSEE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Florida: Mrs. Henry Mills, president; Mrs. M. L. McRae, vice president; Mrs. Earl Carter, secretary; and Mrs. Carl Ramm, treasurer. Mrs. W. B. Connerly conducted the installation.

★ ★ ★

The **SUNSHINE CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** in St. Petersburg, Florida, elected the following officers: Mrs. Forrest Phillips, president; Mrs. Arsene Doucette, vice president; Mrs. Guy Wintersteen, recording secretary; Miss Betty Mellinger, treasurer; and Mrs. Olga Neison, corresponding secretary.

★ ★ ★

The **WINNIPEG AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, elected the following officers for the 1965 season: Mrs. N. R. Calder, president; Mrs. S. W. Schortenhuis, vice president; Mrs. A. C. Driver, secretary; and T. Young, treasurer.

★ ★ ★

The new officers of the **TRI STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Salisbury, Connecticut are: Mrs. Pollyann Eaton, president; Mrs. Linda Dodge, vice president; Mrs. Carol Flint, secretary, and Mrs. Marion Eaton, treasurer.

★ ★ ★

The officers of the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON**, Pennsylvania, are: president, Mrs. Gladys O'Brien; first vice president, Mrs. James Taggart; second vice president, Mrs. Charles Bohner; treasurer, Miss Nora M. Hall; recording secretary, Mrs. Lloyd Curry; and corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. W. Fleming.

★ ★ ★

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO**, California, new officers are: Mrs. Esther Ottolini, president; Miss Frances McMahon, vice president; Mrs. Ethel Haugen, recording secretary; Mrs. Eunice Falk, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Cecile Hicks, treasurer.

★ ★ ★

New officers of the **VI CLUB OF DETROIT**, Michigan, are: Frances Woodward, president; Gladys Swisher, vice president; Ann Heilig, treasurer; Mary Fairfax, recording secretary; and Avis Newcomb, corresponding secretary.

★ ★ ★

New officers of the **SEACOAST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** in New Hampshire are: Mrs. Warren K. Sawyer,



**VIEW SHOW** — The Naugatuck African Violet Society of Connecticut Annual Show is being viewed by (left to right) Mrs. Newell Mallette, classification chairman; Mrs. Julius Fargoot, assistant show chairman; Mrs. Anthony Lewandeski, a guest; Mrs. James Branch, treasurer; and Mrs. Lester Nettleton, show chairman. The theme was "A Harvest of Color" emphasizing fall foliage, and featuring a life size scarecrow, seated among cornstalks, with a large pot of violets in his lap, surrounded by pumpkins.



**AT TB HOSPITAL** — These two members of the Tallahassee African Violet Society in Florida are among the club members who visited the W. L. Edwards Tuberculosis hospital and demonstrated the culture and care of violets to the patients.

president; Dorothy C. Smith, vice president; and Mrs. Harry Garr, treasurer.

★ ★ ★

New officers of the **GLENDALE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Glendale, California are: George M. Carpenter, president; Mr. Chester Maxwell, first vice president; Arthur Glotfelty, second vice president; Mrs. John B. Moss, secretary; Miss Virginia Riley, treasurer; and Mrs. E. H. Pease,



**MIAMI CLUB OFFICERS:** These are the new officers of the African Violet Society of Miami, Florida, installed early this year by Mrs. Lester Fladt, past president of the Hialeah club. They are, left to right: Leonard Cocroft, club photographer; Mrs. Ceilia Pippinger, second vice president; Robert Campbell, first vice president; Mrs. Helen Kelley, corresponding secretary; H. H. Richardson, president; Mrs. Vera Campbell, recording secretary; Harry Geller, treasurer.

corresponding secretary.

★ ★ ★

New officers of the **GREEN THUMB AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** in Fayetteville, Arkansas, are: Mrs. Lance Martin, president; Mrs. Harry Parker, vice president; Mrs. Morris Maxwell, secretary; Mrs. Charles Stewart, treasurer.

★ ★ ★

The **BOUNTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** in Windsor, Ontario, new officers are: Ernest Rieck (Detroit, Mich.), president; Joe Gray (Detroit, Mich.), vice president; Rose Rieck (Detroit, Mich.), recording secretary; and Marion Dangerfield (Windsor, Ont.), sustaining treasurer.

★ ★ ★

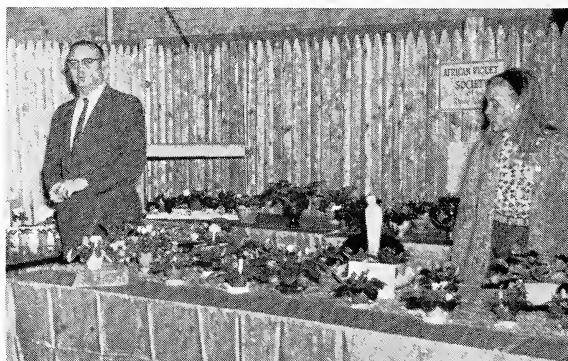
The **GOLD COAST AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Hollywood, Florida, recently celebrated their 3rd Birthday, and also elected their new officers, who are: Miss Bea Schwartz, president; Mrs. Mildred Dailey, first vice president; Mrs. Lawrence Hilker, second vice president; Mrs. William Clifton, recording secretary; Mrs. William L. Gorman, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Louis P. Verna, treasurer.

★ ★ ★

New officers of the **TREATY TOWN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Greenville, Ohio, are: Mrs. William Hershey, president; Mrs. Verto McGriff, vice president; Mrs. Ruth Sadler, recording secretary; Mrs. Estelle Brelsford, assistant recording secretary; Mrs. James L. Ward, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Carl Meyer, treasurer; Mrs. Charles Hoffman, historian; and Amelia Meyer, cheer.



**SHE'S WINNER**—Mrs. John E. Kocinski was winner of a purple and gold rosette and a cash award for the Best of the Show at the East Suburban African Violet club's ninth annual show held at the East Detroit Teen Center. Mrs. Kocinski also won the white rosette with red hearts and a cash award for the most entries in the show. The show theme was "Love Those African Violets." The sweepstakes award, the green rosette and a cash award went to Mrs. Harold Fleming.



**THEY "MAN" BOOTH**—C. Russell Marshall, president of the Rhode Island African Violet Society, is shown here with his daughter, Nancy, as they "manned" the violet booth at the second annual Rhode Island State Flower Show.

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

SO!! YOU have not yet heard from the affiliated Chapters Chairman? Would you like to know why? Her letters (and it is letters) have not reached you. The committee has written and written to every solitary chapter. The response has been tremendous. The one the chairman worries about is YOU—let her know you have not heard, please?

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**PINK PINWHEEL**—Exotic pink and white fringed blossoms.

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**INTRIGUING**—New! Spectacular, frilled double red.

**MORNING STAR**—New! Giant pink, star shaped flowers flecked with blue.

**MR. MIDNIGHT**—New! Huge blossoms with a touch of star, measuring to 3" diameters.

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